

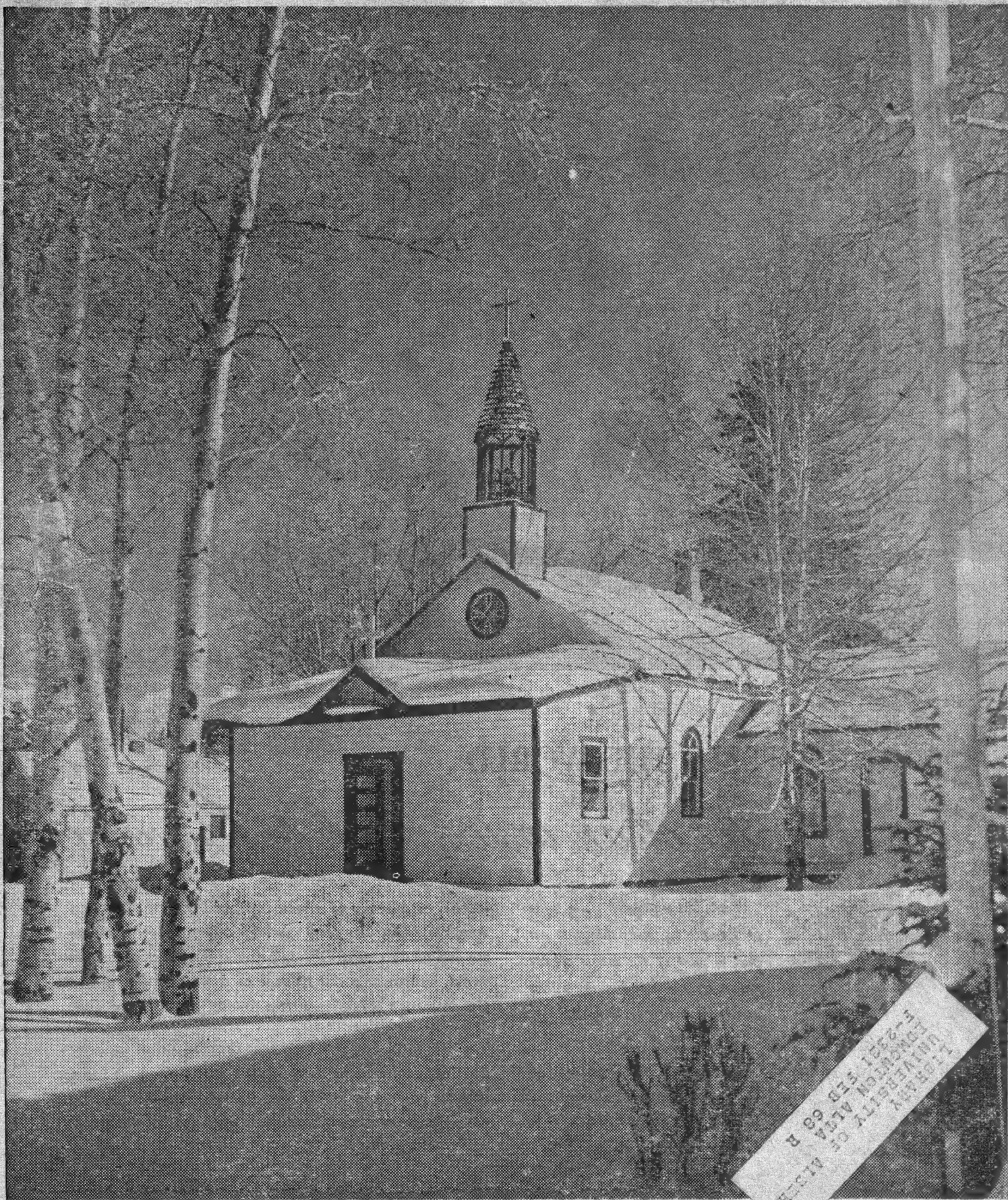
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Farm and Ranch REVIEW

DECEMBER, 1952



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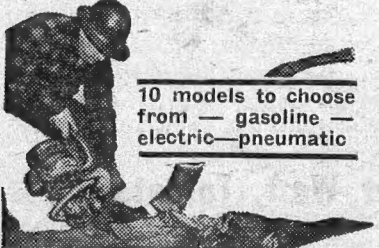
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The Farm and Ranch Review

Graphic Arts Bldg., Calgary, Alberta

Vol. XLVIII.

Founded in 1905 by Charles W. Peterson

No. 12

James H. Gray, Editor

P. Peterson, Advertising Manager

CONTENTS

| | Page |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Editorials | 5 and 6 |
| Worried About Machinery? | 7 |
| The Garden Page | 14 |
| Kerry Wood | 16 |
| Dr. Morley's Sermon | 17 |
| Christmas Around the World | 18 |
| Letters | 22 |
| Fun Page | 25 |
| Louise Price Bell | 27 |
| Aunt Sal | 28 |
| Crossword | 31 |

16

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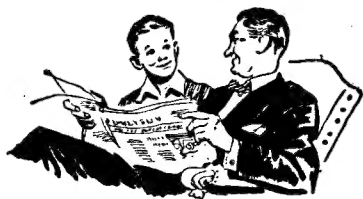
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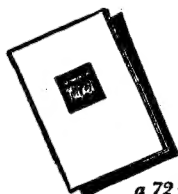


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The Farm and Ranch Editorial Page...

Don't get drowned in "average price" nonsense

WE see by the papers that the Winnipeg Grain Exchange is off again in hot pursuit of the "average price" will-o'-the-wisp. The announcement that the Wheat Board was making final payments on the last coarse grain pool was the starting gun. It was followed by the usual claims that the farmers who sold their grain through the board got less than the average price that prevailed on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange.

This is old stuff to our older readers. They don't have to go any farther with this editorial for what we are going to say is something they know very well. This argument has been going on since the early days of the Wheat Pools. But it occurs to us that some of our younger farmers may not be as familiar with it. At first glance it has a certain plausibility. It is difficult to see the flaw in the argument when it is put in these terms:

"Look, mister, it is like this: The Wheat Board paid you a total of \$1.21 for your No. 1 feed barley. If you had sold it yourself through the Grain Exchange, you might easily have got \$1.48 for it. The worst you would have got would be \$1.12 and if you had only got the average for the year you'd have got \$1.26. A smart Wheat Board, you've got! Can't even get you the average price for your barley!"

Let's take a look at the average price. Getting it would seem to be a simple accomplishment. It looks easy. Just sell some barley somewhere between the high and the low and you should get the average. But a couple of generations of farmers went broke in this country trying to guess what the average was going to be, before we had Wheat Pools. The fact is that the so-called "average price" is sheer imagination. There is no such thing. If it doesn't exist, how can you ever hope to get it.

The Grain Exchange arrives at its average price by simply adding up the closing prices for each day and dividing by the number of days. It does not take account of the amount of grain sold. Let's go back to some grade five arithmetic. The only way in which average prices can be calculated is in taking in the amount of grain sold at each figure. Demand for grain fluctuates as do deliveries. So does the delivery of grain. When both are about equal there may be no change in prices. On a day when the demand and the offerings are about equal several million bushels may be traded without affect on price. But toward the close of the market a late order may arrive for 100,000 bushels. This may cause the market to rise a cent or two cents. If 5,000,000 bushels are sold at \$1.20 and the final 5,000 bushels are sold for \$1.22, the \$1.22 is, by Grain Exchange arithmetic, the average price. If during a whole year, 25,000,000 bushels are sold at \$1.20; 5,000,000 bushels are sold at \$1.30 and 2,000,000

bushels are sold at \$1.40 the Grain Exchange average price is \$1.30. The real average, of course, is approximately \$1.23.

What the "average price" argument studiously ignores is the ability of a market to absorb grain offering at a price. On some days, several million bushels can be sold without depressing the price. On others a few thousand bushels will tumble the quotations. Under the futures market system, the only way in which grain can be sold, under those circumstances, is by reducing the price until buyers are found. Under the Wheat Board system, the board tries to get the best possible price over the year. If buyers happen to be absent, it conducts no fire-sales. It tries to keep the grain selling at a steady pace without forcing down the price.

In order to try to get the "average

price" the farmer must have his grain in storage in Fort William. The cost of keeping it there mounts up steadily, but no allowance is made by the Grain Exchange Einsteins for that. Prices naturally go up when the demand is greater than the supply. In other words, prices will be high when there are factors in operation which prevent the farmers from taking advantage of those prices to dispose of their grain. As soon as the demand is met, prices go down again.

Our younger farmers will not be familiar with the phrase "a crop scare market." The oldsters know all about it. In June and July a siege of dry weather used to send the futures markets soaring. It looked bad for the crop. The farmers wouldn't have much grain to sell. Western farmers could watch the price rise with their mouths watering. But there was nothing they could do about it. They couldn't sell their grain until they harvested it. If rains came in sufficient quantity to give them a crop, they'd find the prices had taken a nose dive by the time they marketed it. Of course, if there was a failure and they had no wheat to sell, the price would stay up and the lucky few would cash in handsomely.

So this winter, when the arguments start about average prices, remember this descriptive phrase from the Wheat Pool Budget — a lot of six-foot men have been drowned in pools of water that only averaged four feet deep.

Provincial-municipal relations need an overhauling not more patches

AT a recent convention of the Alberta municipalities, this proposal got a good deal of attention: The Dominion Government should impose a personal property tax and pass the income along to the municipalities. The best that can be said for this idea is that it illustrates the desperation of the municipalities as they strive to stretch income from taxes to cover mounting expenses. We would like to examine the proposal, not because it has any intrinsic merit, which it does not, but as a symptom of underlying unhealthiness.

What this country needs is not more but less taxation. But even if more taxes were required, it is bad democracy for one government to collect them and hand them over to another government to spend. The ideal state is one in which the governments, whether federal, municipal or provincial, that spend the money raise it themselves by taxation. This is the very basis of our Parliamentary system. It is the one and only way in which the people can maintain constant control of their elected representatives. It was to obtain this authority that the British Parliament waged its long struggle with irresponsible monarchs. In the end, authority to spend was vested in Parliament and Parliament was held accountable by the people for both spending and taxing.

In Canada we have moved so far away from the ideal that we have lost sight of it. True, owing to geographic and economic factors, trying to operate under **Lost Ideal** this system imposed impossible burdens on certain sections and enriched others. It was to find a way out of this impasse that the Rowell-Sirois commission was set up. It proposed a system of federal

grants to the provincial governments. These were drastically expanded in subsequent negotiations. Today our prairie governments obtain more money in federal grants than they raised by taxes during the depression.

Today, it is the provinces that have the whopping incomes while it is the municipalities that frantically search for money to pay for services. Still restricted largely to a single source of taxation revenue — levies on real property — they are called upon to render greater service, often by edict from the provinces. When the struggle becomes too difficult, they are bailed out by hastily devised schemes of subsidies and handouts.

The municipalities are dependent, more and more, on provincial grants instead of on taxation for revenue. It is **Nobody Cares** small wonder that interest in municipal government is on the downgrade. From all sides we hear complaints about an apathetic electorate. The public doesn't care who is elected to our councils. They take little interest in municipal affairs except perhaps in their own roads. This apathy encourages irresponsible spending on the part of councils and provincial governments. We move slowly from the active participation of the people in the government, real democracy, to a passive acceptance by the people of being ruled by and depending on "the Government." It's not much of a step from there to practical communism.

What is required is not more handouts and more taxes but a complete reallocation of government functions and taxing powers. We have suggested before that this region could profit by the setting up of a Provincial-

Farm and Ranch Editorials

We're in no position to point at the British

ON the surface, the Prime Ministers' Conference being held in London is indeed important. The British Commonwealth at the moment is in great distress. Despite large gifts from the United States, it faces a continual deficit on its dollar trade. Its reserves of dollars continue to melt. Because Canada is a dollar nation, this lack of dollars has seriously impaired our export trade to Britain and Britain remains, as always, our best customer for food.

So any crisis that affects Britain's trade affects Canada. Hence Canada has sent an imposing collection of experts to the conference. The problem which affects Britain is two-fold. In order to increase its supply of dollars it must sell more goods to dollar countries like Canada and the United States. In order to sell these goods at competitive prices, it must increase the production and efficiency of its factories. The blunt truth is that there is not much Canada can do about it either. On a minor count, of course, it can help. For example the recent purchase of a fleet of planes for T.C.A. is a case in point. But such measures do not and cannot amount to much more than small-scale aid.

In order to increase trade to the dollar areas the market has to be cultivated and sold. In the United States, this is a particularly expensive operation. It is not enough to ship goods to jobbers in New York or Louisiana. Consumer acceptance and then consumer demand has to be creat-

ed. How difficult and how expensive it is the British auto makers have only recently discovered.

All this, however, comes under the heading of a technical selling job. Once the British get a clear understanding of the nature of the problem, there is some justification for assuming they can and will solve it. Behind it, however, lies a more basic problem. It is one discussed on these pages before. In a welfare state what is the incentive that gets people to work?

The British people, at election times, have voted overwhelmingly for the welfare state. They want all the so-called free services — free medicine, free dental care, subsidized housing, subsidized food, subsidized transportation. The cost of these services now amounts to billions a year. To pay for them the government has had to impose crushing taxation, both direct and indirect. The result has been to drastically reduce the British standard of living. The people, confronted by the tax collector wherever they turn, and barred from access to most of life's essential luxuries by export stockpiling, have no real incentive to work harder. Why should they? There's nothing in it for them.

The position of Britain today presents a melancholy picture when placed in contrast with that of Germany or Belgium or Holland. Germany emerged from the war in ruins, physically and economically. It was split down the middle between East and West. Yet the recovery of Germany, on the

testimony of everybody who has examined it, has been nothing short of miraculous. It can be explained in one word — work.

Germany, too, as once seduced by the concept of the welfare state. It, too, piled social service on social service. Most of it went down the drain in the torrent of defeat that destroyed the country. True, some of it has been revived. Yet essentially the story in Germany today is this: You get what you can by working, the harder you work the more you can get, the more you can have. Work beyond the allotted hours is encouraged by income tax concessions, for but a single example.

German goods are re-appearing on the counters of this country. The Germans are going after our markets with vigor and initiative. Thousands of Prairie farmers this fall saw for the first time a German-made combine. They liked what they saw because it had features that appealed to them. The salesmen toured it across the country, demonstrated it everywhere they could round up an audience.

What is required in Britain is a drastic renovation of its national thinking. But how can our Canadian delegation even hint at the solution. Any suggestion of this kind will come with very poor grace from Canada, which has gone even farther in the direction of the welfare state than Britain. How can Canada, which emerged unscathed from the war, lecture the people who went through the blitz and the hell of the buzz-bombs?

It can't. For one reason it can't because we, too, have gradually become enmeshed in a high-cost economy. Our exports of manufactures have dropped off to such an extent that many factories have been forced to close. If it were not for armed service spending, which has bailed out the textiles, there'd be a depression in that industry today.

In six years of peace Britain has failed to make any substantial headway toward the solution of its economic crises. Having ushered in an era of welfare services, it has been unable to bar out an era of sloth. It has discovered that it has nothing to offer its citizens in the way of incentive to work that can compete with dog races, horse races, football pools and lotteries.

★

Dry spell coming?

IT was a wonderful fall; but we've had more than enough fine weather. The fact is, the weather map of this continent scares us. It could shape up into the driest we've had it here since the disaster of 1937.

The drouth, that began in Texas over a year ago, moved north this year. It has been so dry for so long in Iowa and Minnesota that farmers have been unable to do any fall plowing of their corn fields. Over wide areas, the winter wheat crop has been written off as a failure. Of course all this could change by heavy rain and snow this winter.

The bumper crop we grew this year used up billions of tons of moisture that was stored in the soil. We have gone short on rain all fall on the prairies. The used-up moisture has not been replaced. Unless it is replaced, we may have seen the last big crop for a while.

(Continued on page 6)

Municipal royal commission. Not one, like those in the past, which will go through the motions and bring in a report favorable to whoever pays for it. Rather we need one modelled on the Rowell-Sirois pattern; one that will get out the facts and from the facts suggest a reasonable recasting of responsibilities and income.

For example, there is little logic and less common sense in the way responsibility for roads and for education is now carved up between province and municipality. Roads which provide access to and from the towns are as essential to the people of these provinces as police protection. Regardless of where we live, we ought to be able to get our crop to market and our supplies home over reasonably passable roads. Those who live in the older, richer districts are much better served in this regard than those in the newer or poorer districts. Providing the people with market roads and highways ought to be a provincial responsibility.

On this one point alone, the provinces could take over the whole responsibility and do the job better and cheaper than it can be done now. Similarly with education. We passed out of the era long ago when local school boards ran the schools. Why, then, maintain the fiction that education is a municipal responsibility?

These and other questions would be natural for a Rowell-Sirois commission. If it could suggest a recasting of responsibili-

ties the municipalities could get back to strictly local business. They would then be able to tax for their revenue and the people would again become interested in municipal affairs. We would get much better government at all levels. We would know, when things went wrong, where to attach the blame. We would be brought back to reality in much of our thinking. Instead of clamoring for more services under the illusion that it was free, we would start counting costs before embarking on hurriedly whipped up projects.

Above all, we would reduce our democratic system to logical rules of operation which most of us could understand. Democracy is much more than a slogan, it is a real way of life in which the people govern themselves. What we have got, instead of that today, is a dreadful hodge-podge that is often impossible to understand or to explain.

We got into this mess by taking the easy way out. Our growth and development from a colony into a nation made our provincial constitutions, adopted to serve frontier societies, obsolete. Instead of tackling the difficult task of modernizing them, we tried to patch them up with subsidies and spur-of-the-moment handouts. The result is patches on patches on patches. Any further efforts to apply further subsidy patches will only clutter the framework without getting anywhere with the basic problem which is under the hood.

Worried about machinery costs? Here's a reassuring study

By GORDON HAASE

THERE is a "new look" on almost every farm in Western Canada this year. You see it at once wherever you go, because it is the bright, shiny, painted look of the new machinery that has been bought on these farms in the last year or so. You can see at least one new implement on just about every farm, and on many places the whole outfit looks as though it was just bought yesterday.

The facts of the matter are that Western farmers have bought more machinery in the past few years than they ever bought before, and that there is now more, newer and bigger implements on these farms than at any time in the past. This machinery build-up can't go on forever though, and some people are beginning to wonder if it hasn't gone too far already. Has the Western farmer overdone it in mechanization? Many farmers are asking this question themselves; they know they can go broke paying off machine companies, particularly if the machinery is "surplus" and doesn't pay its full way.

It is, of course, impossible for any farm economist to say just how much machinery a particular farm should have. That has to be worked out for the individual case, but here are two or three of the factors that are concerned.

In the first place, it should be noted that the recent build-up of machinery on Western farms has taken place at the same time when a large number of workers were leaving farming to take jobs in other occupations. That shift always takes place when other industries experience a boom in activity.

When labor is taken out of farming, about the only way to keep up production is to provide more machinery so that those who remain on the farms can get the work done. In most businesses, machinery is a substitute for labor, and farming is no exception. While some farmers have been forced to get machinery to replace labor which has gone to the city, there are still other farmers who could get along more cheaply and satisfactorily if they did the same. In this respect the substitution of machinery for labor will go a little farther yet. But more on this later.

The lesson of two successive crops left out over winter has reminded most farmers of the wisdom of getting farm operations done when the time is right. Big machinery, in shape to work, is the best aid to timeliness on the farm, and this applies to spring work and harvesting alike. Most farmers would admit that a somewhat bigger outfit might increase yearly per-acre costs a little, but there are few machinery costs nearly so big as the cost of crops

year, or even period of years, lost to weather.

The farmer's problem is not so much to keep yearly costs at rock bottom as it is to stay in business on a permanent basis. Timeliness of operations, if costing a little more, can pay off both in better yields and fewer losses to fall rains and blizzards.

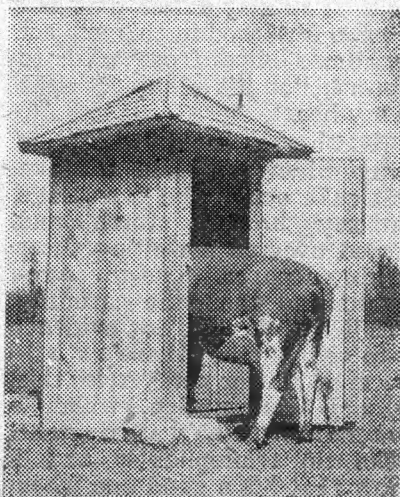
Unstable income is a characteristic of farming, and that is only to say that some

Good years are very good, and Bad and these are usually followed, sooner or later, by a few years that are comparatively bad. To stay in business, the farm must be able to adjust to the boom-and-depression cycle. For one thing, the farmer has to count on building up his outfit of machinery when income is good. Machinery is replaced not only because it wears out, but because it gets unsuited to new cultural practices, in the manner that the plow is giving way to the discer and the thresher is losing out to the combine. Technological advances in agriculture almost always take place when times are good.

There is another feature of the machinery build-up in good times that is important in the bad years. New machinery saves on cash operating costs in two ways. First, it permits a reduction in the outlays that have to be made for labor and repairs; secondly, to the extent that it is more efficient than old implements, new machinery will get work done more cheaply. Now labor, repairs and operating costs usually have to be paid out of current income, and in years of low income this may be hard to do.

On the other hand, if these cash items can be reduced by having bigger machinery, the farmer can get Less Cash Needed over an agricultural depression more easily, because machinery doesn't have

Curious cow:



Mrs. R. Harper, R.R. 1, Bowden, Alta., sent us this most unusual picture of a cow on an exploratory tour of farm buildings.

to be replaced in any particular Low cash income for a few years may thus be stretched over the bare operating costs. What is really involved is a substitution of overhead cost, that can be deferred for some time, in place of operating costs that have to be met within the year.

Depreciation can be covered all at once when incomes are more favorable, and outfit replaced if necessary when money is available. In that sense, a good-sized outfit of new machinery is about the best asset a farmer can have (next to money in the bank) to tide him over a depression. If per-acre costs are raised in the process (and it has not been proved that they are) then that is one of the costs of adapting the farm business to our peculiar business cycle, and the business cycle is a prime fact of life for people who plan to stay in farming permanently throughout their lifetimes.

Finally, mechanization is the main answer for farmers who are trying to improve their income and standard of living. Those who own machinery and land, and manage them wisely, obtain income from them as well as from their own labour. The ability of the farmer, and the conditions of the times will determine how far he will go in this process, but the process does seem to continue, as farms get larger and more complicated.

These considerations ignore two very important aspects of the farm machinery situation. In the first place, there is no allowance for the downright satisfaction that a man can get out of operating good implements. This is particularly true if he remembers getting by with wornout machinery, makeshift repairs and haywire in the 1930's.

Secondly, it must be remembered that there are drawbacks to using big machines. They are complicated and need frequent adjustment for proper results. Large machines should be used together in balanced units too. Using a large tractor with a small tillage implement usually leads to high speeds which ruin soil structure and invite soil drifting. In general, it takes more know-how to farm successfully with large outfits of machinery than with small.

In conclusion then, it is necessary first to say that some farmers will surely go bankrupt because of unwise expenditures in the matter of big machinery. Among the first will be those who have taken out self-propelled combines to their quarter-section farms. At the same time, there seem to be good economic principles behind much of the machinery build-up that has now occurred on the farms in Western Canada. Most farmers have taken advantage of recent good times to put themselves in a good operating position, and if another depression ever comes, they have that much better chances to survive.



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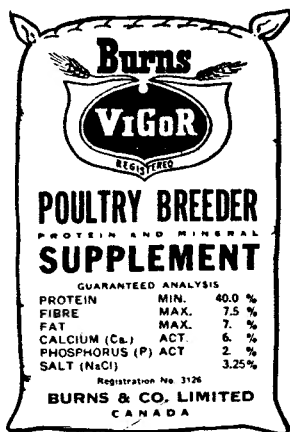
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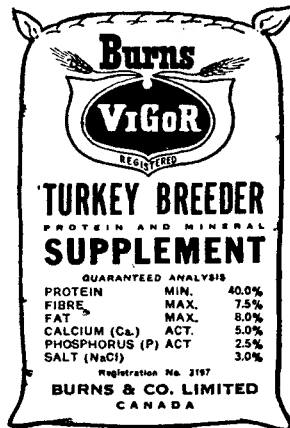


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As a Christmas harbinger the cake takes the cake

By HARRY J. BOYLE

MY wife baked her Christmas cake yesterday! Usually, it's baked sooner in the year, but other matters took up her time, and the event was postponed. The other morning when I came in from doing the chores, and she had the old scribbler down — the one with the recipes in it — I knew that the annual baking of the Christmas cake was at hand.

She had the stub of a pencil in her hand and she was writing on the back of an envelope and jotting down figures and notations and sort of mumbling to herself . . . "Peel . . . citron . . . orange and lemon . . . hmmm . . . raisins . . . the big ones with the seeds . . . and currants . . . and unsweetened chocolate . . . and what about the molasses. (She was occupied for a moment with that, and then wrote something more down). Sugar . . . icing sugar, too . . ." Then at last she was finished, and I was delegated to go down and do the buying at Tim Murphy's store. Of course, I had to caution him that every bit of it be fresh.

I made an excuse to stay in the house. Soon the kitchen table was littered with paper bags and flour . . . and such baking things. The batter was stirred to just the proper proportions, and the various ingredients were accumulated from time to time. There was an occasional pause, as she sampled the batter . . . stood arms akimbo . . . and then, nodding assent, battered it harder than ever with the big wooden spoon. The tins were greased, and ready. A shining round milk pan was greased well on the inside with a bright baking powder can filled with shingle nails sitting in the very middle of it. The batter is poured in and smoothed out, and after a glance to see that the oven is just hot enough, with a slow-burning stick in the firebox, the holy mixture is reverently placed inside, and the oven door closed. All that remains is to wait. You may notice that as I become absorbed in this subject my tense slips from past to present, but it's a subject dear to my heart.

Wild horses couldn't keep me away when it's time to take that cake out of the oven. It's gingerly brought forth and turned over on a waiting sheet of brown paper. The tin is removed and then she carefully taps it with her fingers, evidently to see whether there's a hollow spot in it or not. After this cursory examination, which I pretend not to be watching she looks up triumphantly and I know that it's a good one when she says: "Dear me, I wish that my Christmas cakes would turn out as good as they used to." Then it's my turn to say: "Well, if you had taken my advice and

put the rum in it, then you would have had a cake."

"Go along with you," she declares emphatically, "I did put a wee spot of brandy in it, but there's no rum going in my Christmas cakes. I don't want that young one to be getting the taste of it, and maybe having a liking for the vile stuff."

And I just smile and wonder inside me, whether there would be a difference between rum and brandy.

The Christmas cake is a family institution down here on the Ninth Concession. From now until Christmas time, every place you stop at, there is always a piece of Christmas cake produced, and you munch at it and look pleased and say: "My that's good Christmas cake!" And the woman of the house beams. And with rare exception it is good. No matter how poorly a woman may be at cooking, she always seems to mix a good batter for a Christmas cake.

There's a friendly sort of atmosphere where a Christmas cake is concerned. It's more or less of a harbinger of the season to come, and with a spot of apple jack, there's nothing more hospitable in my opinion. It's wrapped in a damp dishtowel (a clean one) and a woman is mighty glad when the opportunity comes along to hand it out. In fact, down at the grist mill you'll often hear the men remark of how many pieces of Christmas cake they've had. It's a poor year when you get below ten.

—O—

Games for all make Christmas family party

CHRISTMAS is the time for family get-togethers. One of the best ways to make these gatherings memorable for all concerned is to engage in games which the whole group can play.

A nice one to start off with would be a Sugar Plum Hunt. Have one member of the family hide Christmas candies ahead of time in various nooks and corners around the house. At a given signal everyone starts hunting and gathering the pieces. The one who gathers the greatest number would be given a prize.

The Christmas Puzzle is another good one to get things going. Look through some magazines, which are filled with pictures of Santa Claus at this time of year. Cut out enough of these to go around, paste them on stiff cardboard, and cut them into pieces. Then put each group of pieces in a separate paper bag. At the signal, everyone opens a bag and starts putting the puzzle together.

The Xmas Scramble Contest is good for a group with older children in it. This is simply a contest to see who can unscramble a group of words the fastest. Just for fun, see if you can work out the following—astna, erireden, ehsgil, dynca, gosiknct, erte, trepesn, hupnc, alsorc, and niborb.

FARM HEALTH NEWS

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5-52

ANOTHER DEPENDABLE
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The Sterling crisis goes beyond tariff troubles

By BEN MALKIN

THE conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London, starting in late November, was one of many such conferences since the end of the war, aimed at achieving a better balance of trade for the sterling area. The importance to Canada of trying to attain a better trade balance can hardly be overestimated. Britain is still a major market for Canadian wheat, non-ferrous metals and forest products. It could also take large quantities of beef,



pork, eggs and cheese, as was proved during the immediate post-war years. But Britain—or the sterling area as a whole—hasn't had the dollars to buy goods from Canada in as large quantities as she would wish. How to get the dollars is the question that every British government since the end of the war has been trying to solve, with the help of Canada and the United States, but without much success.

Several things have made it hard for Britain to sell enough goods to North America to buy the things she needs here. The only thing that's new in any of them is that they still constitute an unsolved problem several years after the war.

During the war, Britain incurred debts of around 10 billion dollars in countries like India and Egypt, largely for the support of British armies in those countries during the war, and for the purchase of wartime goods. Since 1945, Britain has had to send vast quantities of goods to these countries, to help pay off these debts. These goods known as unrequited exports, might have earned dollars if exported to North America. But Britain had to go on fighting the war long after Canada and the U.S. were finished with it.

Costly Materials

After the war the cheap sources of raw materials on which Britain had been able to build a great industrial civilization were gone. India, Pakistan, Ceylon and Burma gained independence. Britain found itself fighting a war in Malaya, at great expense. She could no longer import cheap food, cotton, tobacco and other commodities. Moreover, her industries were no longer the most productive in the world. Although productivity rose steadily in the post-war years as factories were brought up to date, the tools and engineering processes available to the British worker were not nearly as efficient as those of

the American or Canadian. That meant lower productivity and relatively fewer goods available for export.

Another factor was British trading practices, built up over generations. Especially in the colonial markets, the British trader had been accustomed to near-monopoly conditions. Lacking competition, he didn't have the same approach to customers that the American or Canadian businessman has. In Canada, for instance, the Austin motor car company has set up an excellent dealer organization, with parts and servicing available everywhere in the country. But none of the other British motor car manufacturers have done as well. Without good servicing available, many Canadians who want to buy British cars turn to some other make. The same has been true of farm machinery and other engineering products. It has always been so easy for Britain to sell in Asia and the Near East, that British businessmen simply haven't taken the trouble to develop the tough, competitive American market.

Right Goods

What's the result of all these factors in Britain's economy? Canadian farmers, miners and foresters are selling less to Britain than they might, and Britain has less food and other commodities than it could use. The key to the problem at this moment is not so much free trade and lower tariffs, although these no doubt play a part, so much as the production of the right kind of goods to trade with, and the setting up of selling and servicing organizations to distribute and amintain the products once they are marketed. Deep down, that seems to be the key to what's called the sterling crisis. Another name for it is the dollar shortage, and all that this means is simply not having enough goods to sell for dollars. The result is a lower standard of living in Britain, and because Britain is one of Canada's best customers, lower living standards here.

But knowing what's wrong, and knowing what to do about it, are two different things. Canada has been trying to help out by buying large quantities of military equipment in Britain. Centurion tanks are an example. An aircraft carrier, costing millions, is another. But there can be no permanent stability in this kind of trade, unless rearmament goes on forever. What Britain needs to do is to develop the Canadian market for automobiles, farm machinery, turbines, machine tools, commercial jet aircraft, and all sorts of engineering products. Provided the price and servicing arrangements are right, Canadian customers would no doubt buy. There is no short cut for Britain in trying to earn dollars.

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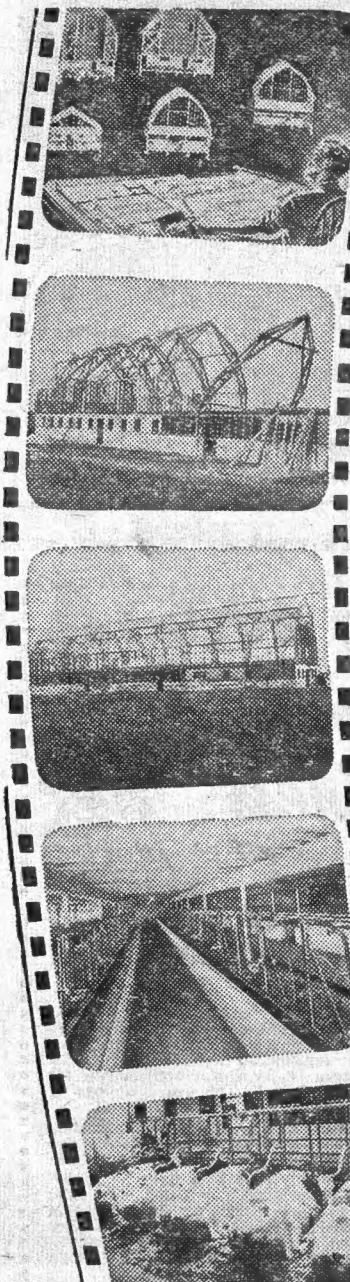
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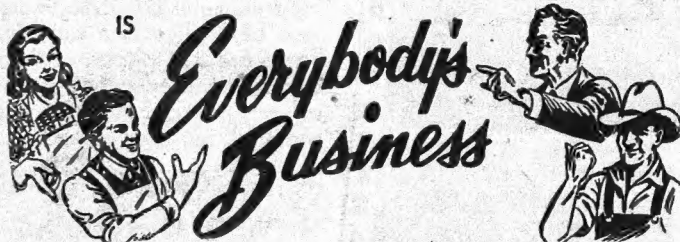
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LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH
The provincial government assists cities, towns, villages and rural municipalities in handling their public health responsibilities such as school health services, inoculation programs, baby clinics, health education and control of sanitation. In communities where no medical service is available, the province provides 60 percent of the cost of a Municipal Nursing Service.

MENTAL HEALTH
The province has augmented its mental health hospital program with the establishment of Guidance Clinics for the purpose of assisting parents, schools, courts, etc.

CLINICS
ARTHRITIS—Service is now provided for the diagnosis and treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, which includes 90 days of hospitalization for patients under 25 years of age if necessary.

CEREBRAL PALSY—Supporting public organizations, Cerebral Palsy Clinics are now in operation in Edmonton and Calgary.

TUBERCULOSIS—Alberta provides a complete diagnostic and sanatorium service. Travelling X-Ray units have visited almost all of Alberta. The new Aberhart Memorial Sanatorium accommodates 300 patients.

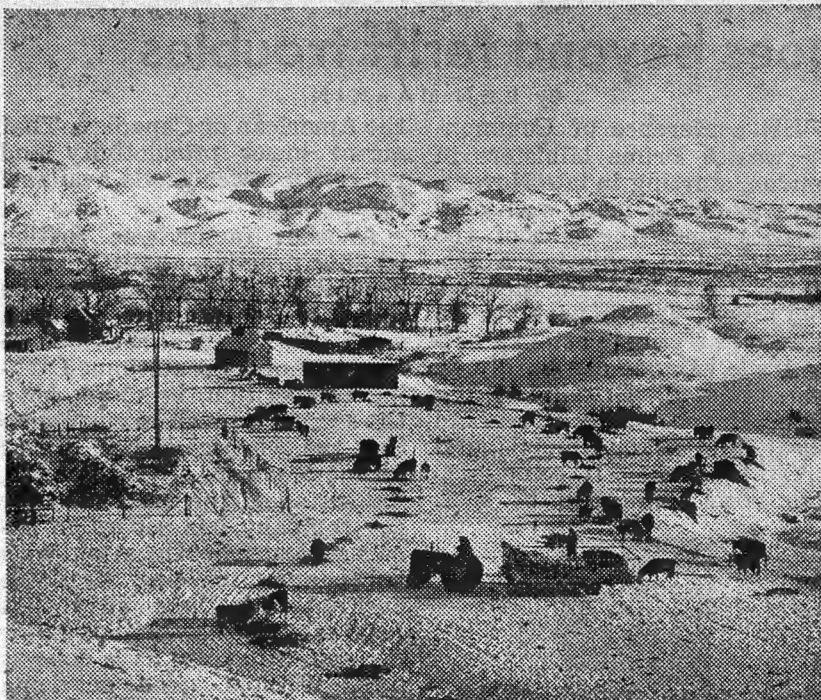
CANCER—The Alberta Cancer program provides free diagnosis, X-ray and radium treatment and surgery.

POLIOMYELITIS—Alberta was the first province to provide a complete polio service. This includes a medical, surgical and hospital service after the quarantine period is over. A rehabilitation program also is provided. **MATERNITY HOSPITALIZATION**—Standard Ward Service is provided free up to 12 days for all maternity cases who are residents of the province.



GOVERNMENT OF THE
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Come and get it!



Feeding time on the ranch of W. G. Hodgson, Dorothy, Alta. The picture is by Richard Harrington.

What's in your soil? Let's take a look

By JOSEPH PAUL

WHEN you climb over the sharp boulders and ground up rock at the foot of a glacier, you get a look at the raw material the soil is made of. This lifeless mass seems unrelated to the prairies and fertile valleys; but you will notice patches of plants have started to develop which seem to find the surroundings very much to their liking. These hardy pioneers prepare the way for bacteria, insects and larger forms of animals as well as for other plants. Thus the early stages of soil formation may be seen.

Most of the soil of Western Canada has been moved and mixed by more than one period of glacial action; so the material in almost every locality has been brought from several sources and traces its origin to many kinds of rocks. The mixing and sorting of this material has been further carried on by the action of frost and water assisted by gravity and wind, tending to tear down the higher formations and gradually flatten out the surface of the earth.

The coal deposits indicate conditions were favorable for a heavy growth of plants at some time before the periods of general glaciation. Some of the organic material accumulated in the coal age would be moved and mixed up with the rest of the load carried by the great glaciers; but the material left behind by the melting ice would consist almost entirely of raw rock ground to various degrees of fineness, and sorted by the ice, and rivers and lakes arising from it. Plants and animals would again start the process of

developing the surface of these deposits into soil.

How long ago this process started is a matter for conjecture by geologists. The only thing worth noting here is that rough estimates of this time are usually stated in millions of years. This does not mean plants and animals have been working over the raw material of this continent for millions of years to improve it and form the fertile soils as we know them today.

The process could only start at such times as weather conditions made it possible and could continue only through periods of favorable conditions. Moreover a great deal of the soil now being farmed has been moved, sorted and deposited at least once since the end of the ice age.

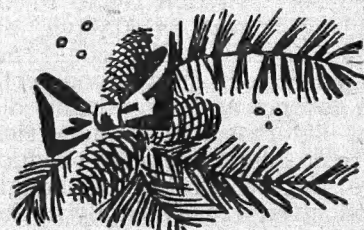
Therefore, it seems useless to

Christmas greens brighten home

A FEW well placed Christmas greens can do much to brighten a house at Christmas time. Properly clipped, the branches will never be missed, and might improve the looks of the tree from which they are cut.

Hemlock, red cedar, juniper, yew, pitch pine, white pine, will make suitable material for a spray to decorate a mantle, door, or a spray for a newel post.

In pruning, however, keep in mind the natural appearance of the tree from which you clip branches.



attempt to relate the process of soil building to a period expressed in years.

Instead of pondering over how long it has taken to build a soil, let us think in terms of these questions: What does the original ground rock contain that can be used by plants? What is added during the process of soil building by plants and animals? Can a soil be noticeably improved or injured by five, fifteen, or fifty years of good or poor farming?

When the ground-up rock has been mixed from several sources (like the glacial till of Western Canada), it usually contains all the elements required by plants except carbon. hydrogen and oxygen and these three are supplied to the plant in the form of water and air. Many of the elements in the rock material may be held in forms which cannot be used by plants until they are gradually changed by chemical action within the soil. The element nitrogen which is used in large quantities by most plants may be lacking or may be present in very small quantities in the rock material. Thus the early development of a soil may be featured by the growth of one or two kinds of plants which are peculiarly adapted to the original material, and the process of soil building must await the accidental arrival of the seed to start these plants.

The decaying material from the first vegetation starts the final process. It furnishes food for bacteria and for animal life; and the organic material from plants and animals is added faster and faster as conditions become favorable for an ever increasing variety of life. The supply of nitrogen in the soil is increased by accumulation of the partly decayed organic matter called humus. The nitrogen for this increasing supply is obtained from the air by bacteria working in the soil.

The products of bacterial action and the rotting of organic material assist in many chemical changes in the soil and other elements beside nitrogen are stored in available forms in the soil humus. This material also tends to act as a buffer against the harmful action of elements and organisms in the soil which would prevent the growth of many plants. So as the vegetation and animal population develops, the general trend is toward improvement of the soil.

The more it produces, the more it is able to produce.

Different kinds of plants and animals follow each other in succession as conditions become suitable for some and unsuited to others; but the general trend is toward more production until a balance is reached between plants, animals, the original soil material

and the prevailing climate. When this balance is reached the humus is disappearing as fast as it is being replaced. No great change can take place until the balance is upset in some way.

Most of the soils of Western Canada had reached a balanced state long before they were settled. They were producing a growth of grass or trees as dense as the climate and soil could support. Moderate grazing should have no noticeable effect on this balance; but cultivation for crop production immediately introduces several new conditions.

In its natural state a mature soil is covered by grass or trees. Under cultivation the bare soil may be exposed to the sun, the air and the weather. Under nature all the plant material is returned to the soil either as plant or animal remains. Under cultivation a portion of the crop is removed. Under nature the soil and its plant cover were subject to every variation of rainfall. Under cultivation a supply of moisture may be stored from one season to the next, or water may be added by irrigation. Nature replaces each plant or animal as conditions become more suitable for the production of other kinds. The farmer strives to create conditions favorable to the kind of crop he chooses to produce.

The introduction of all these new conditions is bound to change the balance in the soil. The amount of organic matter and humus in the soil is usually the feature which changes most noticeably during the first few years of cultivation.

The importance of soil humus as a conditioning material and as a storehouse of plant food has been noted. It is therefore customary to "view with alarm" any decrease in soil humus, and to rejoice over any increase. Unfortunately the humus content in newly broken land is commonly inclined to decrease under cultivation. This may be the beginning of a trend toward lower fertility and poor production; or it may be a necessary readjustment toward a different level of balance which can be maintained under a certain system of cropping. A more complete discussion of organic matter and soil fertility will be undertaken in a later article.

For the moment let us assume that tillage and crop production do affect the soil; but the ultimate results of continued farming need not be destructive.

(In our January issue, Joseph Paul will have a lot more to say about humus and fertility.)

St. Nick's Spirit

IT IS THOUGHT that St. Nicholas died about 345 A.D., and for 30 days following his festival day his genial spirit roamed the earth, filling the hearts of mankind with love and generosity. He gave the gifts without thought of return—the true spirit of St. Nicholas and Christmas.

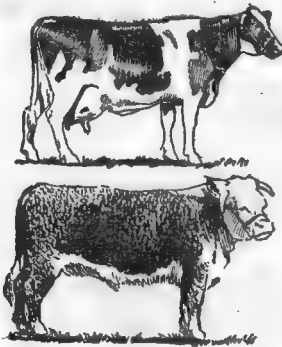


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Richard Harrington sent us this picture of W. G. Hodgson, Dorothy, Alta., rancher, whose carving of Juniper root has attracted international attention.

Land clearing in B.C. is costly but practical

By TOM LEACH

BACK in 1945 the minister of agriculture for British Columbia, the late K. C. McDonald introduced an act in the provincial legislature which virtually put the government in the land clearing business. There were arguments raised on all sides. Men who had invested lifetime savings in bull-doing equipment saw this as another instance of government going into business and giving them competition which they could not meet. Others welcomed the idea because they thought it meant they would get something for nothing.

As it turned out they were both wrong. The Act was passed in the legislature and a department of land clearing was set up within the Department of Agriculture. The purpose of their work was clearly defined. Basically they were to provide the operators, machines and supervision to clear more land for bona-fide farmers to make their operations economically sound.

At that time there were many farmers throughout the province with only a few acres cleared. The land which was under the plow did not provide sufficient area to make full use of the machinery on the farm and yet few of the farmers were in a financial position to hire private land clearing outfits to clear a few additional acres. Privately own-

ed and operated equipment could not stand the expense of moving many miles between farms to put only a few additional acres in condition for cropping. Not many farmers could afford a large contract.

Those handicaps to more extensive farming operations for the hundreds of small farmers were not solved by the passing of the Land Clearing Act, nor could any land clearing be started until suitable machinery could be assembled. That was the first stumbling block to the entire scheme because in the fall of 1945 heavy equipment which was necessary for such work was hard to obtain. Road construction and industrial development were making big demands for the heavy bulldozers.

Five machines were considered essential for a start. They were ordered and gradually delivery of the machines was made. One went into Kootenays, another to the Cariboo and still another to the central B.C. region and work was started. Farmers saw brush being piled on neighboring farms, saw the stumps being pushed out of the ground by the immense machines, watched the land being levelled and made ready for cropping. The lines began to form at offices of the District Agriculturists and applications for clearing began to outstrip the ability of men and machines

so more machines were ordered until a total of 20 were operating throughout the province.

Up to the end of 1951 the department had cleared over 28,500 acres of land and broke another 1,600 acres for 2,740 farmers. Another 400 farmers had contracted clearing work up to the middle of October this year. The sound of the machinery has echoed from Vancouver Island eastward to the Kootenays and northward to the Peace River. The big tractors have ground out the tough cedars and firs at the coast and have pushed cottonwoods and jackpines of the interior off the land and left it ready for the farmer's plow.

High Cost

All that the farmer has paid for has been the clearing. But even that has amounted to a sizeable sum over the years since the plan was started. To begin with the farmer paid a charge of \$7.50 per hour for the machine. Those who had heavier clearing to do found that it cost more per acre. Others who had partially removed brush and trees off the land were able to get more effective work from the machines so there is no way to compare the costs of clearing one man's land with that of another. Today the charge is \$11.50 per hour for the clearing.

Like everything the cost of operating has gone up during the intervening six years. Operators' wages to begin with were 80c per hour; today they receive a minimum of \$1.65 per hour. Costs of parts have risen but the department of land clearing is boastful of the fact that through the use of improved types of dozer blades and experience in using the equipment they have been able to keep the acreage cost of clearing fairly close to the original costs.

They are not entirely satisfied with present equipment or what they are able to accomplish. They are continually testing and experimenting with various methods and machines. They spent \$4,000.00 in the Prince George district last year trying various blades. They have received co-operation from the Department of Lands and Forests who have provided areas with different types of bushland for clearing tests.

St. Francis made first crib in cave

ST. FRANCIS of Assisi is believed to have originated the custom of displaying the Christ Child in a crib at Christmas time.

He is reported to have said to one of his followers: "I wish to celebrate holy Christmas night with you. In the woods near the cloister you will find a cave where we shall arrange a manger filled with hay. We shall have an ox and an ass just as at Bethlehem. I wish to see how poor and miserable the Infant Saviour became for us."

So at midnight, in the small Italian village of Garcia, in the year 1200, St. Francis and his followers celebrated mass at the cave and sang hymns in honor of the Christ Child.

More Power

One thing they have made standard to a large extent is the size of tractor power. They started with machines of 75 to 120 horsepower. The D-8 tractor was the largest they used and these machines have proved satisfactory and they have stuck to them. The greatest objection to machines of heavier power and larger size is the fact that they can not be moved over present roads and bridges.

There was the time that the farmers outside Creston, B.C., wakened to an exceptional snowfall. Roads were blocked for miles around and clearing machinery of the road department would have required more than a week to get through. The men in charge of the land clearing equipment soon had the roads cleared and the farmers happy even though it required weeks to get the accounts for gas and wages squared away on the right balance sheet.

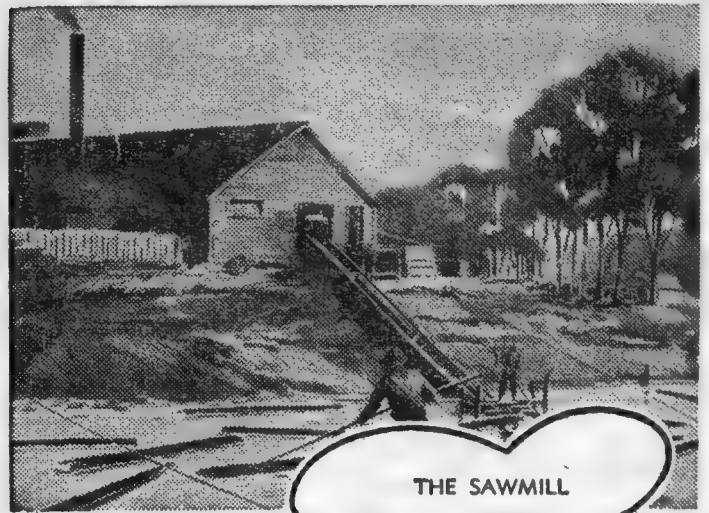
It was also in the Creston district where farmers were unable to obtain any land clearing work from private machines. The government started the ball rolling by putting 1,600 acres in readiness for cultivation. The work was done at Camp Lister which became an active farming community and now private machines are working in that area.

Since the inception of government land clearing in B.C., farmers have contracted to have more than a million dollars worth of work done on their land. No single account is extremely large but that is all the more reason to suspect that a few would try to evade payment or at least a part of their account. Contrary to that most accounts have been paid promptly and in full. A few out of the total 3,135 contracts have been a little delinquent in payments but all are considered good accounts.

Good Record

The reason for that good record of payments for clearing may be largely due to the method of determining what land will be cleared. Simply because a farmer takes a notion he would like to have additional land put into condition for a plow does not assure him that he can get the work done. He first consults his District Agriculturist who investigates the area and goes into details of his farming operation with him. If more cleared land is needed then they look over the farm together.

They look at the proposed site for new clearing from several angles. Is the land worth clearing? Will it prove productive? Is it situated closely to the other land areas under cultivation on the farm? Is it level or is it sloping and subject to erosion if cleared? Those are a few of the questions the District Agriculturist and the farmer must answer before the contract will be completed. It has worked out for the farmer.



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Conserve that moisture with waste and trash

By H. F. HARP

THE 1952 growing season was notable for the abundance of high quality vegetables and flowers produced in southern Manitoba in spite of minimum supplies of moisture. From April to October the rainfall at Morden was less by almost five inches than the thirty-four year average. However the showers occurred when most needed so that plant growth suffered little, at least until early fall. At this season of the year the effect of prolonged drought is everywhere apparent. Evergreens, especially, stand in need of moisture but there seems little chance of rain before freeze-up. Wherever possible a soaking of water from the garden hose should be given the small plants of evergreens to lessen the effects of drying winter winds.

In most seasons prairie gardeners have reason to be concerned about drought. We can usually look for a period of dry weather along about mid July or August. It is then that evaporation is high and soil moisture is rapidly depleted, leaving the growing plants in distress.

The first indications of moisture deficiency is manifest in the browning of the lawn area. Grass cannot remain lush and green without adequate sup-

plies of moisture. If watering by means of the garden hose is not possible we can afford some relief to the dry lawn by raising the cutting blade of the lawn mower a full two inches. The vegetable plots and the flower beds can be given a measure of protection from drought by mulching.

Tests have shown that excessively high temperatures, which by the way arrest plant growth and rapid evaporation that robs the soil of reserve moisture can be sharply reduced by applying a cover of organic material referred to as a mulch.

**There is Still Time to Buy
Christmas Seals.**

There are several kinds of materials suitable for this purpose most of which are available on prairie farmsteads. When these materials are used intelligently the results will more than repay the effort involved in applying them. Bearing in mind that the purpose of mulches is mainly to conserve moisture they should be put on before the ground becomes parched but not before the soil has warmed sufficiently to ensure normal plant growth. Satisfactory materials for use as

mulches include flax straw, slough hay, old strawy manure, lawn clippings, peat moss, mulch paper and saw dust.

Flax Straw has much to recommend it. It is free of weed seeds in most instances and does not litter the whole garden in windy weather like wheat or oats will do. A four inch covering will not be too much. Gladioli, Sweet Peas, and Dahlias benefit greatly from this type of mulch.

Strawy Manure has the advantage of providing the growing plants with valuable nutrients as the rains wash through the mulch. At season's end the residue of this mulch can be dug into the soil to advantage.

Slough Hay is excellent for mulching being clean, free of weed seeds and easy to handle.

Lawn Clippings. In most gardens there is not sufficient of this material to bother about collecting it. But when large quantities are available, it may be used with satisfactory results. A few inches will be found a sufficient cover for mulching most garden crops.

Peat Moss. Some parts of the country have easy access to quantities of this material. Where it is obtainable without too much bother it should be used in preference to any other as it not only has a high insulating value but also improves the soil condition when dug in after it has served as a mulch. Peat moss is acid in reaction, sterile, or almost so, contains no weed seeds and is particularly beneficial to heavy soils.

Saw Dust. This material is not used to any extent in prairie gardens because of its scarcity, however its insulating value is high. Limited quantities can be dug into the soil with beneficial results.

Mulching will not remedy soil cracking if this condition is evident before the mulch is applied. Constant hoeing should be practiced to maintain a shallow layer of dry soil. This is called a dust mulch and is helpful in providing good growing conditions by preventing soil cracking and reducing evaporation.

Before the application of any organic material the area to be treated should be quite free of weed growth and well hoed. A dressing of fertilizer (11-48-0) may be put on before the mulch at the rate of 2 ounces per square yard.

Seasonal Hints

Evergreen boughs used indoors as Christmas decorations are often a nuisance when they scatter their 'needles' over the furnishings. A sure way to delay 'needle' drop is to steep the ends of cut branches in a fifty per cent solution of glycerine and water for a period of twelve hours. The sooner this can be done after the boughs have been cut the better. Small Christmas trees that are used as table decorations may be

given the same treatment thus preserving them in good condition for a longer period.

Dutch Bulbs

Early planted bulbs of Paper-white Narcissus and the yellow flowered variety called Grande Soliel d'or can now be brought up to the living room. By placing a piece of paper over the tops for a few days they will gradually become green. Early daffodils such as King Alfred and Golden Spur may be taken from the cellar in a week or two. Tulips had best be left in cellar storage a few weeks longer. Make sure all bulbs are well rooted before they are taken from the cellar.

If there is any doubt regarding the state of the root system the pots had best be carefully turned upsidedown and the plant removed. A mass of root at the base indicates that the bulbs can be safely transferred to the warmth of the living quarters. Top growth should be well sprouted an inch or two long.

We are rapidly approaching the season of the year when plant growth is reduced to a minimum. House plants should receive careful attention to watering; over doses will be more harmful than keeping the plants on the dry side. Geraniums will make do with a minimum supply. However when the sun again increases in power and growth is more active, waterings can be more frequent.

African violets will appreciate more light from now until March. A south window sill will suit them well. Lack of bloom in winter when these plants should be at their best can often be attributed to growing the plants in a position where light is too restricted. Use soft water at room temperature or 10 degrees higher for best results.

Canadian Quiz

By GEOFFREY SHAWCROSS

1. What noted explorer was born at Arnes, Manitoba?
2. What interesting discovery did he make in the vicinity of Coronation Gulf?
3. What territory did he discover?
4. What did he do in 1924?
5. Who was special commissioner during the Riel rebellion in the Red River settlements?
6. What Canadian territory did the Norwegian explorer, Otto Sverdrup, discover?
7. What noted educational establishment was founded a century ago — that is in 1852?
8. Who was Canadian delegate to the unveiling of the Vimy Memorial, in France, in 1936?
9. What were the original names of Kitchener (Ontario)?
10. What noted statesman was elected for New York, Ontario, and became Premier in 1921?

(Answers on page 26)



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THE first year we had carillon carols from a church in our town on Christmas Day, I happened to be out on a snowy trail a couple miles from town when the chimes rang out. The church had not been fitted with the actual bells, but due to the modern magic of electronics, a set of carillon records could be played from the church and broadcast by means of a loud-speaker set high in the steeple. On that frosty Christmas morning, with rimed evergreens on the horizon between me and the town church, the setting was a beautiful replica of a Christmas Card scene with the additional charm of the bell music playing a favorite old carol.

The carillon inspired the birds to song. As the bells rang out, woodland creatures hushed as though to listen. Then a male Pine Grosbeak, his head and breast proudly splashed with rosy color, perched on a swaying stalk of Wolf Berry and suddenly warbled a low but pleasing carol of his own. Only two male birds were in the flock of more than a dozen olive-drab females and juveniles, but the second male flew to a branch above the low berry bushes and quickly added a second song as the feeding flock uttered single notes to provide a background chorus for the two soloists.

Chickadees copied this example. Their brisk and cherry greeting sounded, the familiar and lisping Tska-dee-dee-dee.

Carillon Bells and Bird Songs on Christmas Morning

By KERRY WOOD

One bird was near the top of a small evergreen, turning to face the bright but cold sun before singing. From his throat came the lovely Chickadee song usually reserved for springtime.

Some lesser songs then sounded, vying with the tuneful clanging of the distant bells. A Nuthatch gave that queer note that can hardly be called musical. When its Quaaanking had echoed to silence, a Blue Jay's harsh screech rose above the carillon music for a moment and was followed by the kack-kack of a Magpie. This outburst caused a squirrel to chitter and scold, and I saw the animal leave its cosy moss-lined dray or nest to seek food.

Christmas Cone

Instead of coming a-ground to raid its snow-covered piles of cones, the squirrel climbed to the top of a big spruce and nipped off a cone to shuttle out the hidden seeds. One cone slipped from its hand-like front paws, tumbling through the needled branches to land near me and trailing some snowy dust in its wake. I picked up the cone, noting how the frost made it glisten with silvery sparkles.

It called to mind the legend

of the poor woodcutter's wife, whose family were abed with hunger and illness on Christmas morning when she went abroad to gather fir cones for fuel. A tiny man dressed in green came from the forest and offered to help, loading her sack with large cones. Then, with a merry smile, he wished her a happy Christmas and disappeared, leaving the poor lady to struggle with the amazing weight of her small sack. Reaching home, she poured the sack's contents on the cabin floor and the sight worked wonders for her ailing family, because all the cones were made of gold and silver.

That legend may have inspired our love of gilded tree-cones as Christmas decorations.

There is Still Time to Buy Christmas Seals.

A new carol was sounding then, a merrier music of swinging bells. This caused a woodpecker to make a startled Pee-eennnnkkk! Then came a flock of Redpolls across the field, alighting on the unploughed edge of the farmer's snow-covered stubble. While busily feeding on

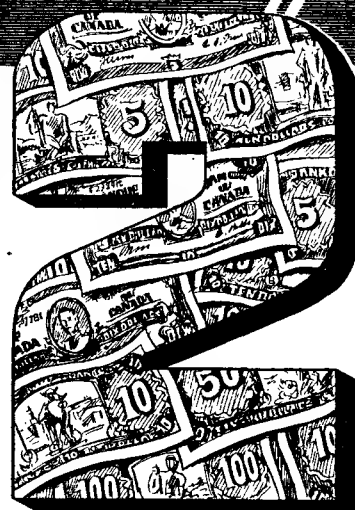
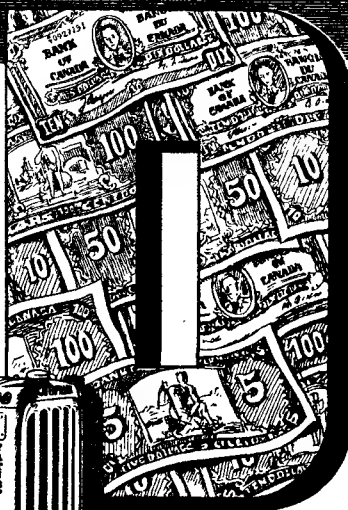
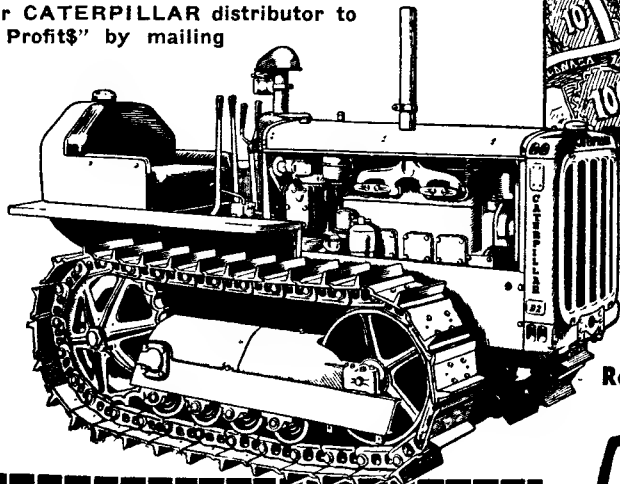
weed seeds, the canary-like whistles of the Redpolls blended beautifully with the rollicking chimes. Their singing ended abruptly when a Northern Shrike sped toward them. The smaller birds whisked safely away, while the Shrike perched on a fence post and huffed his gray and black feathers. Perhaps the bells soothed his savage little heart, for he suddenly uttered that bold and pleasing song of the winter shrike.

By this time the cold forced me to move again. The Shrike flew off in alarm, while the Pine Grosbeaks left the low wolf berries to find higher perches. Chickadees followed me for a few minutes, cheery companions along the trail. I had discovered the cloven marks of a mule deer, noting where it had browsed on birch and alder twigs but failing to sight the fairy cattle that morning. However, I did see rabbits and red-backed mice, while wedged in a willow crotch a fat porcupine was calmly chewing on bark as the bells changed again and rang out Joy to the World.

It recalled the joyous children at home and Christmas Dinner waiting there. So I stopped comparing the carols of birds with the carillon bells, wishing both groups of musicians and everybody else a Merry Christmas and a Guid New Year.

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How to get to Heaven— Do the work of Christ!

By DR. FRANK S. MORLEY, Ph.D. (Edin.), B.D.

A GROUP of us were discussing this question, "How to get to heaven". At first it struck me as selfish. Yet it has great value if it reminds us that we are strangers and pilgrims in this earth. We are here for just a little while. We also must have a goal for our living. Heaven not only provides us with a goal, but with a hope which is greater than earth-bound hopes.

Three chief ways are advised for getting to heaven. Some people believe they get there by inevitable drift. Others think the Church gets them there. Others believe they get there by "being saved". All are wrong.

The drifters say, "Let the next world take care of itself. We shall live as good a life as the next fellow". Samuel Rutherford said a true word: "You will not be carried to heaven lying at ease on a feather bed". No, the way to heaven is through struggle. Drifters forget that drift takes you down stream, not up. Drift will take you to hell, not to heaven. A sign on a Church bulletin read, "Get your Upper Room without cost in the vestibule today". You can obtain magazines free, but to go into the Upper Room with Christ costs life itself. Jesus warned His disciples many times of the sacrifice and struggle necessary. Once He said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat; because strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life and few there be that find it".

Church-Attendees

Others believe that if they faithfully attend Church and obey all the teachings of the Church they will get to heaven. Jesus also warned us that such an expectation is false. We must have an inward experience combined with Christian behaviour. To the Pharisees — and they were surely strict enough in Church discipline — he said bitterly, "Even the Publicans and harlots go into heaven before you". He bluntly told that many would say, "Lord, Lord", but if they did not obey Him they would not go to heaven.

Of a certain political boss it was written, "With the booty of corrupt politics he built a Church and was buried in the odor of sanctity." It is hard to think of such a man getting to heaven. Much as I love the Church, vital though it is, no Church can get you into heaven and no Church can keep you out.

A great many of you are saying, "No, of course you get into heaven by being saved". Just what do you mean by that. I remember when I was a boy at-

tending a "revival meeting" and a woman asking me if I were saved. She said it as if there were something magical about it. (There is something miraculous about it.) People with great smugness will ask it as if to say, "I am saved and you are not. I am sure of heaven". If that woman asked me the question now, I would reply, "No, I am not saved and neither are you". Salvation is a process. Bunyan has one of his characters fall away at the gates of heaven. We are never completely saved in this life, for salvation is a process. We can never rest on our oars. As Dr. Whyte said to a young fellow who boasted of being saved, "It will be as air whistling to the end."

Surely there is such an experience, so radical and wonderful that we can only describe it as salvation. A time of vision,

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of forgiveness, of cleansing, of strengthening, of decision, of commitment, of which we can say in gratitude, "Jesus saved me". Paul did say to the Philippian jailor, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved". One must make a revolutionary new beginning.

Do Nothing

But there are many pious people who never do a blood-red thing for anybody. They are forever talking about the experience of Christ without doing the works of Christ. And Paul knew well the struggle that must follow. He had many followers like Demas.

What did Jesus say about getting to heaven? After all, He should be our best authority. Read Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 25, verses 31 ff. "For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; Naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison and ye came unto me. Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me". Now that is what Jesus said.

A woman asked me recently, "Do you know the Lord, Dr. Morley?" I wondered what she meant. Surely to "know Jesus" is to walk the way Jesus walked, to serve as Jesus served, to sacrifice as Jesus sacrificed, to pray as Jesus prayed.

Out of Politics

One man I know contends that when you are saved you must withdraw from politics. Now I believe that when you are saved you will get into politics. You will get into all those things that have an effect on the happiness and health of your fellow-

men. We are to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. We are to bring all kingdoms into subjection to Jesus Christ. Paul told us that the powers of the state are ministers of God. The mind of Christ must be brought from theory into life and built into the state. People who disown responsibility for creating the good are responsible for creating the evil. Pilate was not a very good Christian example.

When Eisenhower promised to go to Korea and try to stop the war, I said, "Thank God"! I believe Christians should be peace-makers. Winter is coming in Korea. Thousands of children will die. We have a responsibility to stop if possible this dreadful slaughter of the innocents. The man who disowns responsibility is no Christian.

Dr. Bob MacLure is a wonderful missionary whom I have had several blessed opportunities of meeting. In Canada recently he told some stories of his work in China. He told of a garage mechanic who repaired Red Cross Motor Trucks. He was dissatisfied with his contribution to suffering humanity and he started making artificial legs. He had a wonderful aptitude and returned to Britain and Canada for further training. He will go back to the battle front again to help these poor victims of war's frightfulness. Of such is the kingdom.

Dr. MacLure told of meeting Refugee Trains in the winter nights. Of rescuing children who would otherwise have died. Of one little woman who brought in a child dying from diphtheria, but Dr. MacLure opened the child's trachea and inserted a tube and he gave the baby all the diphtheria antitoxin he had. He saved its life. The mother had cancer. He saved her life. Of such is the kingdom.

Help Humanity

So the work of helping humanity in the name of Christ goes on. Our world desperately needs saviours. We argue about whether the Presbyterian or Episcopacy is primary. We argue about the Virgin Birth. We refuse to allow people of another denomination to partake of our communion. What hypocrites we are! Christ's followers are those who do the works of Christ. Men and women who like the martyrs of old:

*"They marked the footsteps that He trod,
His zeal inspired their breast;
And following their incarnate God,
They gained the promised rest".*

John said, "We know that we have passed from death to life because we love." When we think of getting to Heaven we do well to think of the sacrifice of our blessed Redeemer and to sing of His atonement, "There is a hollow mockery, however, until we make the response,
*"Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all".*

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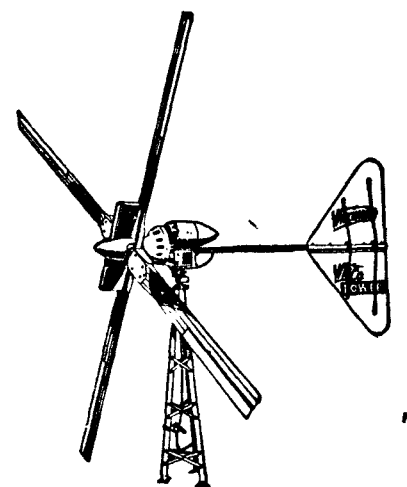
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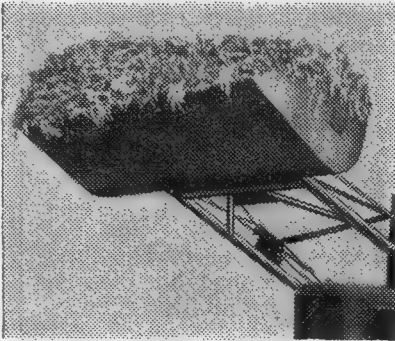
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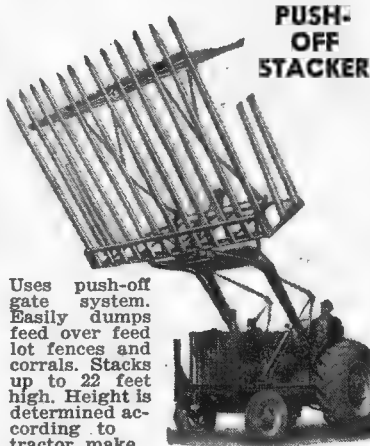
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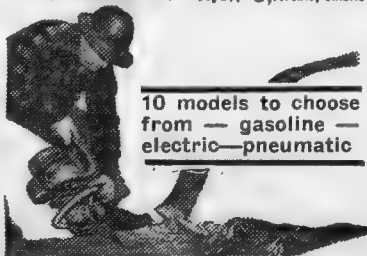
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Christmas among Europeans— How they celebrate this year

By ANNIE L. GAETZ

EVERY country has its own peculiar customs and manners, and these appear strikingly in the various ways in which Christmas is celebrated.

The Scottish peasantry call Christmas Yule: the Norsemen have a very similar name for it and call it Jule. This name was, in ancient times, applied to the whole month corresponding to our month of December. When Christianity was introduced about the year 1,000, Odin's Yule was changed to Christ's Yule.

There are still two distinct celebrations of Yule in Norway, one by the Church for religious purposes, and another by the young people for amusements. The Yule holiday still lasts 13 days, ending on the twelfth day, or the 6th of January (Epiphany).

Christmas day and the two days following are occupied in religious services, and the remaining ten days, Sunday and New Year's Day excepted, are given over to all sorts of amusements.

The people go to church the first three days, and if this is not possible, they remain at home quietly reading their Bible or other good book. They make a point to attend one Yule service, for at this time they bring the minister one of the three annual offerings, and this offering forms no inconsiderable part of the minister's income. The offering is voluntary; but the people take pride in making it a generous one.

Family Re-Union

The young people make good use of their share of Yule. For three weeks before Yule arrives, every family is making preparations, baking, sewing, knitting and shoe-making, so that they may have this season free. Every member of the family is

expected to be at home for the celebration on Yule Eve, and to have something new to wear for the Christmas season.

It is a time for family reunions, and a matter of great rejoicing if the family circle has remained unbroken since the previous Yule Eve. On this particular occasion, they partake of rice-porridge and spare-rib, and when the family rise from the table, every member from the oldest to the youngest shake hands with the complimentary phrase, "Taj fa maden", which means, "thanks for the good food"; to which is responded, "Vel bekomme", meaning, "may it do you good."

Nice Sight

Every Christmas Eve, the Norse peasant fastens a sheaf of grain to a pole, which is erected somewhere in the yard or on the top of the house or barn, for the birds on Christmas morning. Some people have introduced this beautiful custom in this country. During the Yule holidays, nobody ever enters a house in Norway, be it ever so humble, without being offered something to eat and drink. Christmas tide to them is very real.

Days of Three Kings

While we are enjoying ourselves with good cheer and merry-making, the people of Finland are doing their best to make themselves happy in their own equally time-honored way. From Christmas to Twelfth day, they call, "Days of the three Kings," and they keep fresh in their memories the circumstances connected with the Wise Men by a quaint performance during all these days. The actors are called the "Star-bearers," and they go about from house to house much the same as the minstrels who used to go from house to house singing Christmas carols in England.

Eight persons besides the ac-

Oldest tractor?



Mrs. H. Sawatsky, Altamont, Man., sent us this picture of a 36-year-old Advance-Rumely tractor which was still in use breaking brush last summer.

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tors themselves are required to personate the "Star". King Herod, his Squire of True Men, the Virgin of Venus, or the Goddess, the Black King from Moriah's land, the Three Wise Men and the Black King's Slave. King Herod acts as the "sweeper-up", being the first to enter the house and ask permission to perform the pageant. He is garbed in a dark blue military dress, set off with spangles. He also wears a crown. Permission obtained, he is followed by the whole company.

All except the Virgin are armed with swords, and the Black King also wears a crown. The Virgin is attired in white, with a circlet of gold around her head. A chair is substituted for a throne, and King Herod seats himself upon it. Then the whole company sing:

*"A Merry Christmas to you all,
Masters and Mistresses too;
May God preserve us all from
harm,*

*Ourselves as well as you.
For Christ is born in Bethlehem,
Today at the cock-crow,
All sorrow now is fled away, as
The Holy Kings shall know."*

The play consists of three acts. When the serious part of it is ended, the Black King passes around a hat. After this, all retire singing:—

*"We thank you for your charity,
The money rang out merrily,
'Tis showed by all your com-
pany,*

*Receive our thanks—your gift
shall be*

*Henceforth in God's memory:
Nor fade from ours till morning
light,*

*And so we wish you all good-
night."*

Sacred Drama

In Brittany, one of the most extensive of the ancient Provinces of France, Christmas is observed with much strictness and ceremony. Engravings frequently represent a curious ceremony which is still to be seen at this season in some of the churches of Brittany, recall the days when dramatic representations were of a sacred character, and were conveyed to the minds of an unlettered people in the form of a pageant.

The scene represents a kind of grotto, formed of festoons of ivy sparkling with tinsel and erected on an elevated stage. At the top of the grotto, appears the legend, "Gloria in Exelsia Deo." In the background there is a stable, the rack and trough in front with two animals an ox and an ass. The Virgin Mary occupies the centre scene, and on her knee rests the Divine Infant; Joseph stands near, and the Magi on their knees offer jewels and perfume.

Ancient Rituals

The customs observed by the Russian people at Christmas-tide, kept according to the reckoning of the old style, 12 days later than in Western Europe, are particularly interesting because of their almost complete distinction from the better known practices of Teutonic and Latin lands. Russia

is one of the few countries where the hand of civilization has not effaced the characteristic features of the people or modified their childish tastes. In some of the remote provinces, Christmas is celebrated much the same as it was when Christianity was first introduced into the land.

Thus, on the Great Day, as Christmas Day is called, various entertainments are held, certain families being previously selected to do the honors of hospitality. According to the custom, the hostess in whose house the festivities are celebrated, chooses for each young girl who is her guest, a companion known as the "selected". When arrangements have been completed and invitations issued, the whole village is in a state of excitement awaiting the eventful night.

The Poles

On Christmas Day the Poles in Galicia first attend Mass, then sit down to the family supper. The chief dish contains consecrated eggs, which the father distributes. After eating, all eyes are closed and all heads bowed to the table, in the belief that Jacob's ladder is then descending from Heaven to earth, and down the ladder angels are coming to bless the worshippers and to carry away their earth troubles to Heaven.

In Bohemia, the festival begins on December 24th, which is observed as a strict fast day, only water and bread crumbs being allowed. The legend runs, that he who most strictly fasts, will see the Christ Child in his dreams that night. In the evening, the real celebration begins, reciting and declaiming everything connected with the history of Christ's birth. All lights are extinguished in the house and the children remain perfectly still, otherwise the Christ Child will not lay any gifts at the entrance to their home.

The Italians devote the day to eating, drinking and enjoyment. Olive oil and macaroni are the chief components in their cookery for the Christmas feast.

Germans Sing

German people love a celebration, and their big night of the year is Christmas, or Weinachten as they call it. Long before it arrives, there is evidence of great preparation in the home, the church and in business. All are preparing gifts for the loved ones and the home. One big feature of their festivities is the Christmas tree, and few households, wealthy or poor, are without one. Christ Kind, a celebrated mythical personage is said to dress the tree, and one way of keeping the children in order during the year is to warn them that "Christ Kind" will not bring them gifts, unless they are good.

And so, all over the world, we celebrate the birth of Christ in various ways; but underlying each celebration is the same idea and the same seeking after joy and happiness.




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The Farm and Ranch has arranged with Mr. David Meyer, the author of this new and regular feature of the Farm and Ranch, to analyze the handwriting of its readers. Here are the rules:

Write at least 12 lines with pen and ink on good paper. Do NOT — repeat — NOT use a ball-point pen or pencil. Send it, together with 25 cents in coin:—

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How's your will-power? Look at your writing

By DAVID MEYER

HOW firm are you? Have you had occasion to blame yourself after a situation has mis-carried to your hurt for not showing more will and stamina?

Let us say that you had some project in mind, made plans for it and even went to the trouble of embarking upon it. But, as so often happens, unforeseen difficulties arose. You began to question the wisdom and desirability of the risks and labor involved. You asked others for advice and again, as so often happens, you received conflicting opinions so that you felt stymied and bewildered. Did you doggedly brush aside all doubts and carry on or did you lose heart and drop the matter?

Will power and stamina mani-

fest themselves in handwriting in several ways. First, the pressure should be firm. It need not be heavy. It may be light, but never too light or thin. And the pressure should be steady and stable.

Second, the slant should be uniform. It may be to the left or upright or to the right. But it should not sway back and forth like a twig in a breeze.

Third, the height of the small letters should be uniform, thus:

will power

Fourth, the lines of writing should be more or less straight and even.

Now, what is the reasoning behind these principles?

The amount of pressure in a script indicates the amount of

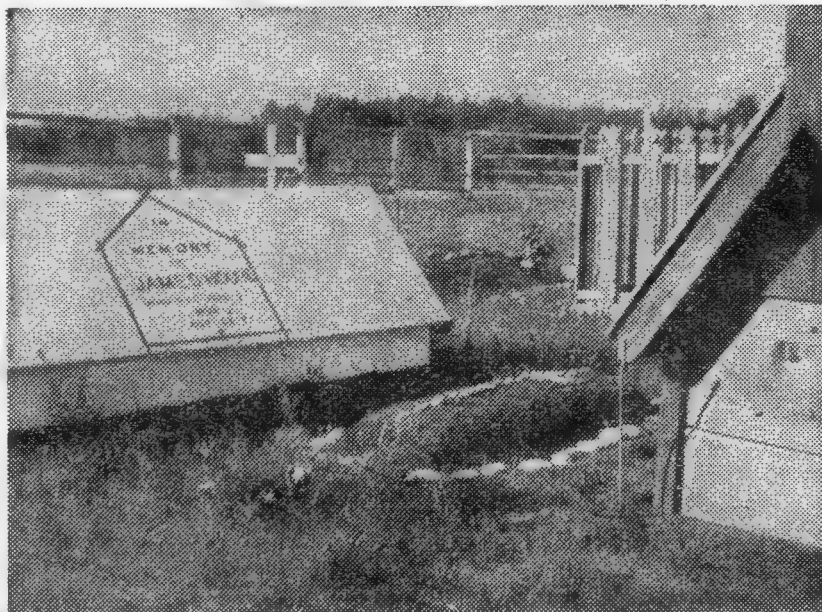
energy at the writer's disposal. Firm pressure tells us that the writer is endowed with sufficient energy to carry on his work and responsibilities. Pressure that is too heavy suggests a domineering will or sheer obstinacy. Too light pressure tells us that the writer is too sensitive and suggestible to others opinions, so that he is easily distracted from his goal. Medium and steady pressure points to a will that is consistent but flexible, and the writer is well able to pursue his objective without being rigid or too readily swayed by difficulties and adverse opinions.

Uniform slant is important because it tells us that the writer is consistent. Of course, there is the old adage that too much fear of inconsistency is the hallmark of small minds. But I take it that this old saw refers to rigid and blind efforts at consistency which, like too heavy pressure, refuses to take into consideration the inevitable changes dictated by nature herself. Without normal consistency in our make-up, we would barely be able to get through a day's work, agreements would be broken, and plans would go awry. The writer whose slant wobbles back and forth betrays an "unsteady hand", figuratively speaking.

Of equal importance with pressure and slant is the height of the small letters. Uniform height reveals the "steady hand," an imperturbable nature, a capacity for getting things done. The unreliable temperament is disclosed by highs and

A little grave-house instead of a head-stone

By JOHN F. MOORE



THE old Indian shook his head slowly. "Long before you white man come, Indians believe in a Great Spirit. Down here," he laid a gnarled wrinkled hand over his heart. "Indian knows a Great Spirit make all things, an' prepare happy hunting grounds."

Once, one of the warlike Cree this old man nodded, then si-

lently continued gazing calmly over the prairies. It is true, that long before the white man came the Indians believed in a future life. Families and friends often went to great preparation when a dear one departed. Sometimes his horse, all his fighting equipment and food, were placed in with the body.

But when civilization spread

over the Blackfoot and Cree country of Alberta in western Canada, little houses were often built over the graves. In these they were able to place his bows and arrows, tomahawk, knives and food for protection. Some built smaller ones just to protect the grave, for as the years went by the grass would grow over, and many would be completely lost on the plains.

Sometimes it was the poorest, but much more often the Christianized Indians merely erected crosses of stones over the mounds, or set up wooden crosses. The picture shows this contrast in an old Indian Graveyard near the Red Deer River. At one time on this flat above the river, there was a little pioneer village called Content, some forty miles east of the city of Red Deer. But over forty years ago when the Canadian Pacific Railway came through a few miles farther north, it was deserted and every building torn down. Some were moved to the new townsite of Alix and Nevis.

All alone on the flat, weather-beaten, unpainted, and surrounded by clumps of poplar and willow, quiet in the corner of a rippling grainfield — the lonely little graveyard remains. To pause on the highway and observe its stillness, one sees an ancient people's belief in the Resurrection to come.

lows in the same word, thus:

will power

Finally, straight lines tell us that the writer has an objective and prefers to approach it in the most direct manner possible. No one, of course, writes absolutely straight lines. Only a machine could do that. But a stable nature will follow a line that is approximately even and steady.

Of secondary value are the t-bars:

1 2 3 4
t t t t

No. 1 indicates exactness. No. 2 shows ardor. Nos. 3 and 4 are rather weak.

Now that we have considered the major aspects of will power as revealed in handwriting, let us look at the minor qualities that make for humor and pathos, the so-called human aspects.

Consider the humble letter "f". Some writers tie a knot around the middle. Call it a bow-tie if you wish, thus:

f

These writers are persistent in small matters. If the writer is a woman, she will suffer agony if her carefully laid tablecloth is twisted by her lively and restless child at dinner. She may lose her temper if her husband tracks in some mud after a day's fishing or hunting. She has never heard of Robert Burns' lines about the best laid plans of mice and men, but will insist that her household adhere strictly to severe rules of cleanliness, order and deportment. If the writer is a man, he may throw a fit if his wife has hung up his suit in the closet so that a crease developed in the shoulders of the jacket. He will hold on to paid bills and cancelled checks long after they are worthless to him and clutter up his desk. He will spend a sleepless night worrying whether a letter he sent to a business associate was worded just exactly right.

Now take this t-bar:

t

Note that it is hooked. The hook is a sign of tenacity. But, we ask, what kind of tenacity? Would you call a fish tenacious when he holds on to the angler's hook in his mouth? Would you call a bear tenacious for holding on to the bullet which the hunter shot into him? Well, writers who cross their t's with a hooked bar have a tendency to show a blind and unreasoning sort of tenacity. Like children who get hold of an object that is utterly worthless but has taken their fancy for some reason, these writers don't know when to let go. And they are touchy into the bargain. You must not criticize their baubles or they'll become mortally offended. Best thing to do is wait until their infatuation is over and they'll change course in their own inscrutable way.

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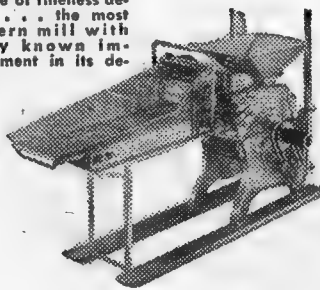


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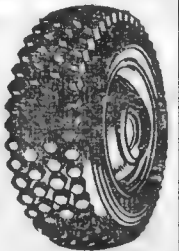
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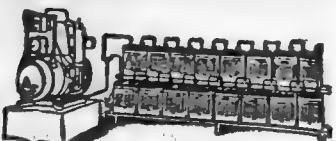
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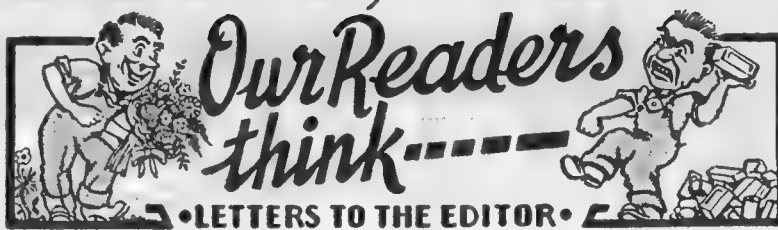
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Maj. Strange in rebuttal

To the Editor:

I HAVE read your editorial in the issue of the "Farm and Ranch Review" of November, in which you comment on myself and my writings.

I find, however, that your editorial contains one major error which I take the liberty of drawing to your kind attention, for I am sure you would not deliberately be a party to an incorrect statement of fact. You write as follows: "In the three years after 1929 it (the open market) managed to find customers for only half the crops we grew." I have compiled the official figures for those years and I find that for the three years after 1929, that is the crop years of 1930-31, 1931-32 and 1932-33, the total production of wheat on the prairies was 1,099,447,000, an average of approximately 366 million a year.

I find that the official figures show that farmers delivered during those three years to country elevators, and shipped over the loading platforms, 942,950,000 bushels of wheat, the difference of 156 million odd being accounted for by the farmers' requirements for seed and feed which are usually figured to be somewhere around 55 million bushels a year in those days. (It is considered these days to be quite a little more than this average of 55 million.)

So we have for the three years an amount of 942,950,000 bushels delivered by farmers and so available to the open market for sale. The official figures reveal that the export sales out of Canada for the three years came to 730,028,000 and that the sales of wheat to mills in Canada for flour for domestic use came to 127,105,000, or total sales of 857,133,000 for the three years. (The actual sales were somewhat greater than this because this does not take into account some of the wheat that entered into commercial channels and that were sold for poultry feed and so forth. These amounts, however, were not very great.)

This, then, leaves us with the following picture:

The open market had delivered to it by farmers for the three years 942,950,000 bushels and sold 857,133,000, or approximately 90%, which is very different from the 50% only which is contained in your article.

Yours very truly,
H. G. L. Strange,
Winnipeg.

Defends the ducks

I was just reading "the ducks, farm pests," by Norman Flinders. I am a farmer, too, but I don't think that way about ducks. We have lots here, too, but I don't think they are so bad. Some farmers think it awful to see a few ducks on the field. I like to hunt ducks. They leave more grain laying around than ducks ever eat. When it's too damp to work, it's nice to get a good feed of ducks. I would sooner see a lot of ducks and good crops than no crop and no ducks. If every farmer would leave a few acres for the ducks it would be good. I always leave some and seem to have no trouble.

Ernie Kolk.

Hudson Bay, Sask.

Bread and cheese

I WOULD like to congratulate you on your splendid article in the November issue of your magazine re cheese. At last somebody put the finger on a very sore spot. Most of the Canadian cheese is not fit for eating, even if they say in the national cheese week, "our cheese is the best in the world!" (Such a small world!)

Now I wish you would write something similar about our bread. There is no doubt we have the best wheat in the world, but more true is it that we also have the most tasteless and over-refined bread in the wide world! Perfectly true, when they tell us in the advertisements not to ask for bread, ask for —, as it is no bread, it's nothing but a soggy conglomeration of chemicals; but it surely does not deserve the old and honest name bread.

H. H. A.

Champion.

Answers to Canadian quiz

1. Vilhjalmur Stefansson.
2. He discovered an apparently lost European tribe — a very light colored Eskimo with blue eyes and red hair.
3. Prince Patrick Land.
4. He proceeded to the center of Australia.
5. Donald Alexander Smith (First Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal).
6. The islands since known as the "South Group" over which Canadian sovereignty has been recognized since 1931.
7. Laval University.
8. Ernest Lapointe.
9. Sand Hills and Berlin.
10. William Lyon Mackenzie King.

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Meditations at twilight

By A. L. MARKS

THOUGH faces differ, it is not the particular features that one remembers, it is the expression of the eyes, the set of the jaw, the lip line, and the lines that crease the forehead, radiate from the eye and separate the cheeks from the corners of the mouth. These are what make the human countenance either attractive or unattractive.

It is comforting to know that this is so, for all of these things we can learn to control by controlling our thoughts and emotions.

If we feel down, why advertise it? Jubilant, why hide it?

Some years ago I wrote a little book of children's poems. One was called "Two Little Girls." They were contrasted. One had beautiful features. The other was plain but was always doing something nice for others.

I gave a copy of the book to the teacher of the class in the school which my adopted daughter Margaret Anne attended. She was then six years old.

One afternoon, when Margaret Anne came home from school, she said:

"You know that little poem about 'Two Little Girls' in Margaret Anne's Wonder Book?" I said I did. She continued. "Well, teacher read that poem to our class today, and do you know what it means?"

I said: "I think I do. What does it mean?"

She said: "Teacher says, it means if you are beautiful inside you are beautiful all over."

Teacher had got the meaning correctly.

Even if we can't do anything for the strangers we meet we can give them a friendly smile and a cheery greeting and so make them our friends, no matter how we may dislike our own features.

The Legends of Christmas

THERE are almost as many Christmas legends and superstitions as there have been Christmases. Countless customs from the Old World have been absorbed through the centuries into the celebrations that we participate in today. A few, however, have been passed down from one generation to another, remaining always the same.

The Indians of Canada, for example, believe that the deer kneel in prayer each Christmas Eve. An early missionary probably is responsible for the idea, but it still lingers and wily Indians have always attempted to catch the deer in the act.

In England, it is believed that the bees express veneration for the nativity by singing in their hives at midnight. The bee hives are always adorned with holly sprigs for the Yuletide season.

In Europe it was custom for a young girl to creep to the family woodpile on Christmas Eve and pull out the first stick that her hand touched. If the stick was a straight one, with no knots, tradition said

that she would have a good husband. Farmers in Europe also gave torches to their children and sent them singing into the apple orchards and the fields. The mice, caterpillars and moths were said to flee before the approaching songsters.

In early Germany it was a belief that water turned into wind during the hour before midnight on Christmas Eve.



Buy Christmas Seals

Solution to last month's puzzle

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A HELPFUL HINT ON CITY DRIVING



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Itch..Itch ... I Was Nearly Crazy

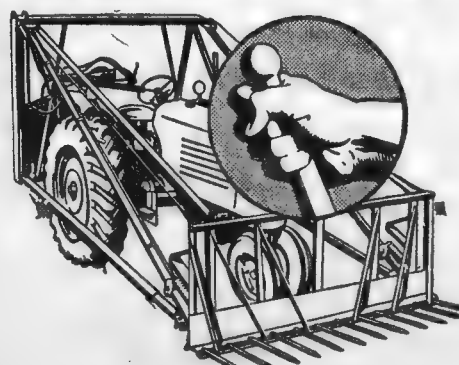
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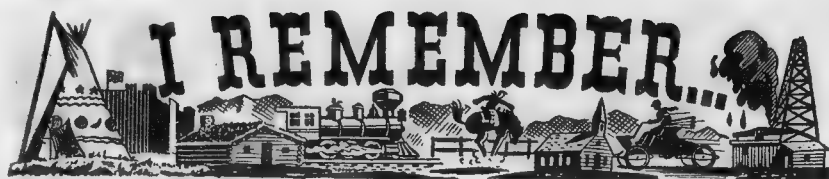
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To Church in a tub

I REMEMBER back in the '90's when there really was a "funny side" to farming, when walking, riding in the wagon or on horseback was the only means of transportation, true, the buckboards were beginning to make their appearance, but



only the "stuffed shirts" could afford them as they cost about \$45.00, and that was real money, but those hardy men and women could not be beaten. Take the year when the first snow came in December, and Mrs. Billy Nolan wanted to go

to church, did she open the flood gates and turn on the tears? No, sir. She bundled her kids into the wash tub, placed it on the stoneboat and hitched old Buck. Then she called on Mrs. Bob Carscadden who brought out her tubful; next call was for Mrs. Jim Callen, who repeated with her tub. Now the church bus was dangerously overloaded, but they all arrived safely at Hillview Church, where 'tis said they prayed long and loud for Santa Claus to bring them a buckboard for Xmas, and Santa must have heard them for at the picnics, held in the surrounding districts the next summer you could tell the ones who came from Hillview, for they nearly all sported new top buggies.

George W. Love.

White Fox, Sask.



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Christmas Message

From the

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL

The Christian world commemorates Christmas in honor of the birth of Christ. His teachings form the foundation of a relationship between human beings which, if lived up to, would bring heaven to earth.

The spirit of unselfishness is abroad at Christmastime. While the family is the centre of Christmas festivities, hospitality and friendly feelings spread far beyond the intimate circle. Goodwill radiates through the whole community.

It is a wonderful experience for humanity, that the cares and worries and resentments of everyday life can, for a little space in the year, be forgotten, and friendliness and sympathy prevail.

So, in the face of the trouble and fear of war which depresses the world, the 1952 Christmastide is looked forward to with cheerfulness.

*"As long as there are homes where fires burn and there is bread,
As long as there are homes where lamps are lit and prayers are said,
Although a people falter through the dark, and nations grope,
With God, Himself, back of these homes, we still have hope."*



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The Hens liked mustard

I remember when the unsightly ball mustard came "into its own". It was in 1918. Prospects were for a super-bumper crop. Then one July night dashed our hopes for any kind of a crop, for we had a killing frost. We sold most of our grain that year. We also had more than the usual number of chickens. The problem was how to feed them. We had one field that was badly infested with ball mustard. The weed survived, being too hardy to be killed by the frost. In due time it began to bear seed. As an experiment I pulled an armful of it by the roots and threw it to the chickens. They ate its seed with relish. For quite a long time the only feed the chickens had was ball mustard seed.

W. M. Gray.

Myrnam, Alberta.

CHRISTMAS QUESTION CORNER

QUESTIONS

- 1—Who was Kris Kringle?
- 2—What does the name Kris Kringle mean?
- 3—Who wrote the first Christmas Carols? When?
- 4—What superstition had the Scotch about the Christmas candle?
- 5—By what other name is mistletoe known?
- 6—Where did the custom of kissing under the mistletoe begin?
- 7—When were Christmas candles first used?
- 8—How long has the practice of gift giving at Christmas been observed?
- 9—How did the custom of hanging Christmas stockings originate?
- 10—Why are candles used during the Christmas season?

ANSWERS

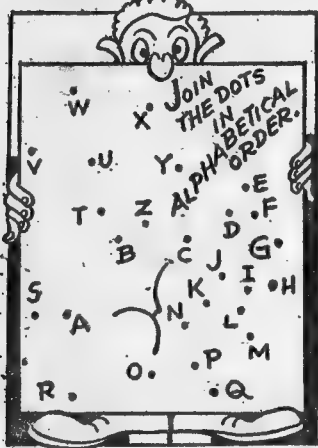
1. Santa Claus' helper. 2. "Little Christ Child". 3. St. Francis of Assisi and his friars—in Italy—during the 13th century. 4. It was considered an omen of bad fortune if the candle went out before midnight. 5. The Golden Bough. 6. England. 7. In the middle ages—at the Jewish "Feast of Lights". 8. Since the fourth century. 9. St. Nick once dropped a purse of coins down the chimney of a poor family. It landed in a stocking that had been hung to dry. 10. As symbols of the star of Bethlehem.

BUNLAND

THE FAMILY ENTERTAINER

BY
A.W. NUGENT
THE WORLD'S
LEADING
PUZZLEMAKER

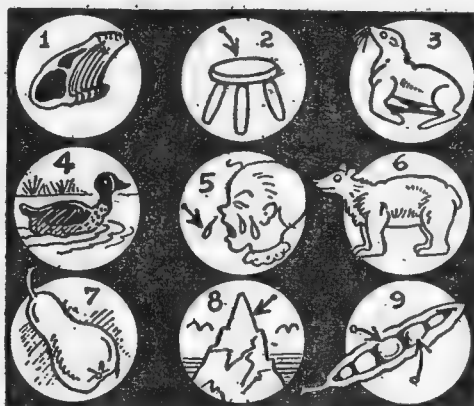
The UPSAN DOWN family



A E F M O R S T U W Y
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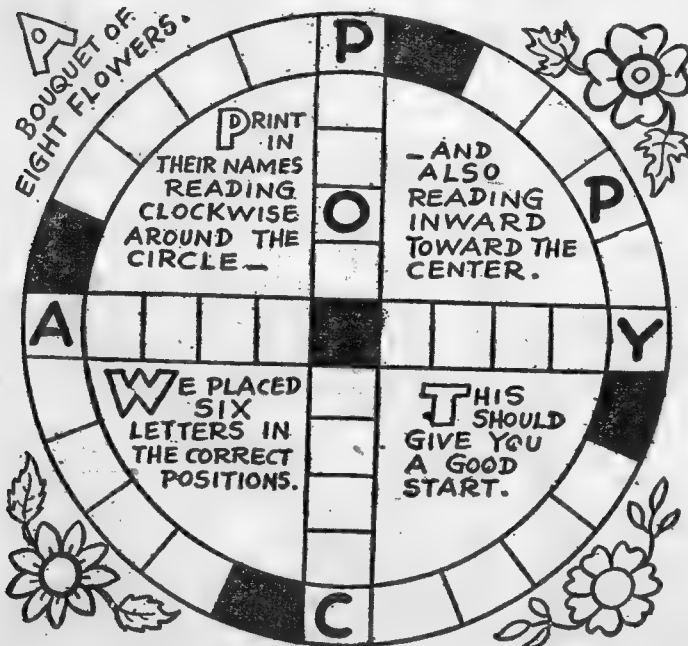
CHANGE THE NAME OF PICTURE NO. 1 TO PICTURE NO. 2 AND SO ON IN NUMERICAL ORDER BY SUBSTITUTING ONE LETTER TO SPELL THE NEXT OBJECT INDICATED.



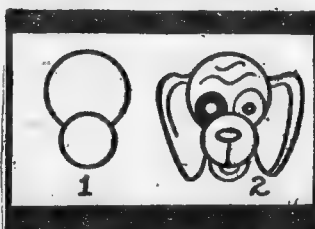
USE ANY OF THE LETTERS IN "PARE ALL CHUM" AS OFTEN AS YOU WISH AND TRY TO SPELL FOUR FRUITS.



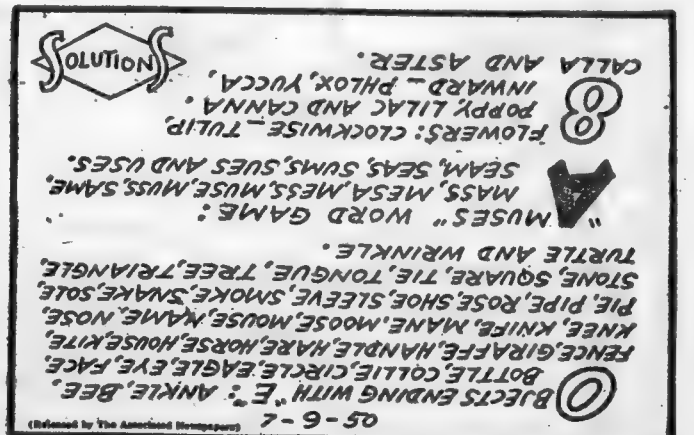
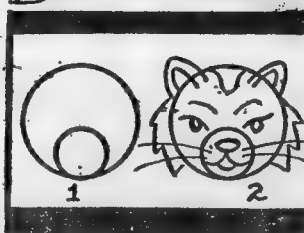
APPLE, PEAR, PEACH AND PLUM.



STEP BY STEP.

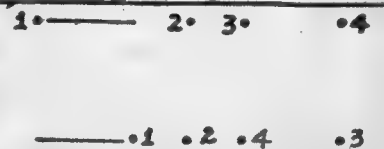


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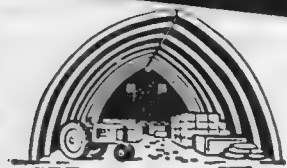


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Meet Someone You All Know-- Your Neighbor, AUNT SAL

By KERRY WOOD

AUNT SAL is the sort you'd like as a next-door neighbor. For that matter, most *Farm and Ranch Review* readers already consider her as a good neighbor and are faithful followers of Aunt Sal's home-makers' column which has been a monthly feature in the *Review* for eleven consecutive years. 500 farm women and city housewives of Western Canada write to Aunt Sal every month, to ask for help and advice from someone they consider to be a good friend.

And there is no doubt about Aunt Sal's friendliness. It was my good fortune to meet her the other day, and the first thing that impressed me was the warmth of her smile and the kindly twinkle of good humour in her eyes. Then I shook hands with Oscar, her husband, and again felt the genuine friendship of a firm clasp and knew at once that I'd like him for a neighbor too. We hadn't much chance for a chat then, as the introduction took place at a public function held in their home-city of Lethbridge, but next day they extended a cordial invitation to have lunch with them at their comfortable home. Oscar told me to take off my jacket before we pulled our chairs up to the kitchen table and dined on an excellent stew and fragrant hot buns.

Since that happy occasion, many *Review* readers of my home district have asked me:

"What does Aunt Sal look like?"

Well, there should be a picture of her at the head of her column, then you'd see that she is a charming and lovely lady, small and dainty, while Oscar is the lean type whom Aunt Sal can't possibly fatten despite her four solidly packed shelves of cook-books.

Why so many cook-books? Probably a third of all letters

written to Aunt Sal ask for special recipes for preserving marrows, making tomato relish, or how to bake a Coontown Cake—Incidentally, she couldn't find that Coontown Cake recipe in any of her multifarious cook-books, but readers soon supplied the details when she asked for help through her column.

Big Response

Another example of *Review* response came during the busy harvest season of '52, when a farm lady wrote Aunt Sal for



more recipes using sour cream or milk. Aunt Sal asked readers for help, and over 150 farm ladies took time out from harvest work to write their favorite sour-milk recipes and send them to her.

Despite her pride in the splendid array of cook-books, Aunt Sal believes that home-making doesn't stop at being a good cook and her interests in the subject range through a wide assortment of specialties from hobbies to health and even how to make hats with a croquet hook. She and Oscar have had a practical farm background to provide her with the home-making experience she loves to write about, then they lived for 10 years in the small town of Manyberries in Southern Alberta before moving to Lethbridge six months ago. At Lethbridge a modern gas stove is installed in her kitchen, and Aunt Sal looks at it in some wonder and explains:

"I'm more used to the farm stove—the kind that smokes when the wind is in the west!"

By this time I had been adopted as one of her numerous nephews, so felt free to ask why she used that "Aunt Sal" writing name.

"Oh, I became an aunt at the ripe age of ten," she replied. "It was while I was still in my twenties that I started writing. I wrote children's plays and verse then, and thought an Aunt pen-name would make my writings more acceptable to young readers."

Her mother was annoyed about the pen-name, until the day came when the mother was admitted to hospital and the matron learned that the invalid's daughter was the famous Aunt Sal. From then on the mother received extra special nursing care because of the matron's fondness for Aunt Sal's writings, so the mother cheerfully reversed her earlier stand and became one of her daughter's keenest boosters!

Right about here we should have a sample of Aunt Sal's informal and pithy style of writing, an excerpt from a Lethbridge Herald column:

"During this last week in October a neighbor gave me two yellow roses from her garden. They were not the best looking roses in the world, but they were still blooming this late in the year, and in Alberta. As my neighbor expressed it: 'They're having quite a struggle.'"

At Least, Struggle

"As I held those brave roses in my hand I couldn't help thinking: Well, I guess that is what we all have to do—just keep a-struggling on. And then I went into my kitchen to take a peep at the brown buns that I'd hoped had risen high and light by this time—but they hadn't. Shaking my fist at them, I muttered:

"If you can't rise, at least struggle!"

While we were concluding our chat in her living room, with Punch, the Spaniel snoring gently in the adjoining sun-room where Aunt Sal does her writing, the postman came to the door with a handful of mail. At my suggestion, she opened the mail to give me actual samples of her daily fan-letters.

The first note was from a lady who had bought a washing machine from a fly-by-night agent and it had proved a dud: what action could she take? Aunt Sal shook her head sadly before reaching for another letter. This one was from a handicrafter who wanted to sell Shell-flowers at 60c a bunch, postpaid. Aunt Sal explained that she often featured novel handicrafts in her column, relating some good stories about interesting hobby-workers she'd been able to help.

The third letter asked for the address of any firm that made cotton rags into scatter-rugs, while the fourth was from a knitter who wanted information on how to knit a bonnet. Then there was a note from a fellow-writer, sending her best wishes to Aunt Sal and the Southern Alberta Writers' Club which was then in conference at Lethbridge.

The final letter was of special interest: the lady had written on a hunch to ask if Aunt Sal was the Sallie Fowler who used to teach school in a certain farm district of Alberta and was engaged to a man called Oscar Nelson. Aunt Sal's smile became truly beautiful as she nodded and said:

"Oh, yes—I'm that Sallie and I married my Oscar!"

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED

THE 1953 EDITION OF THE NELSON FARM RECORD

This new edition is the result of 6 years' experience and continual contact with farmer users and many of the improvements you will find are suggestions contributed by farmers. By request we have eliminated the household section and given this space to more room for detail, also many other changes and additions including a full-page of Income Tax Information. You will be delighted with this book. Price unchanged. One Year Size, \$1.85; Three-Year Size, \$3.75.

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Dealers Wanted

FRR

Farm and Ranch housewife

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE RURAL WOMEN OF WESTERN CANADA

To use up left-over turkey

By LOUISE PRICE BELL

EVEN the people who like turkey dinners often get tired of eating cold sliced turkey, turkey hash and turkey soup. To avoid the same old after-holiday meal, try these two ways of putting to delicious use the turkey that remains after the big meal is over. (The same recipe may be used for left-over chicken).

Turkey Turnovers

- 2 cups sifted enriched flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup shortening
- 2/3 to ¾ cup milk
- 1½ cups cooked turkey meat
- 1/3 cup cranberry sauce or relish
- 2 cups turkey gravy

Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt; then cut in shortening. Add milk to make a soft dough and turn out on a lightly floured board and knead gently for ½ minute; then roll ¼ inch thick. Cut four 6-inch squares and place turkey meat and 1 tablespoon cranberry sauce or relish on ½ of each square; then fold dough over the filling to make triangles and seal edges with fork or fingers. Prick tops of turnovers with fork and place in baking dish, 9 x 12 x 1½ inches. Pour hot gravy over the turnovers and bake in 425° F. oven for 25 min-

utes. (Bake any left-over irregular bits of dough to make extra biscuits.)

Gravy

- 2 tablespoons fat
- 2 tablespoons enriched flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Dash of pepper
- 2 cups turkey broth or milk

Melt fat in saucepan, add flour, salt, and pepper and mix until well blended, and cook until bubbly. Gradually add broth, stirring constantly, and cook until slightly thickened. (Makes 2 cups gravy.)

Turkey Tempter

- 4 ounces noodles
- 1¼ cups condensed mushroom soup (1 10½-ounce can)
- 5 tablespoons milk
- 1 cup cooked diced turkey
- 1 cup cooked lima beans
- 2 tablespoons chopped pimiento
- ¼ cup enriched bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons melted butter

Cook noodles in boiling salted water until tender, drain and rinse. While noodles are cooking, combine mushroom soup and milk, stir until smooth, then add turkey, lima beans, pimiento and noodles, and mix well and pour into greased 1½-quart casserole. Combine bread crumbs and butter and sprinkle over turkey-noodle mixture. Bake in moderate oven (350° F.) about 30 minutes.



Turkey Turnovers are made of left-over turkey and biscuit dough, and are GOOD!

Thoughts at Christmas

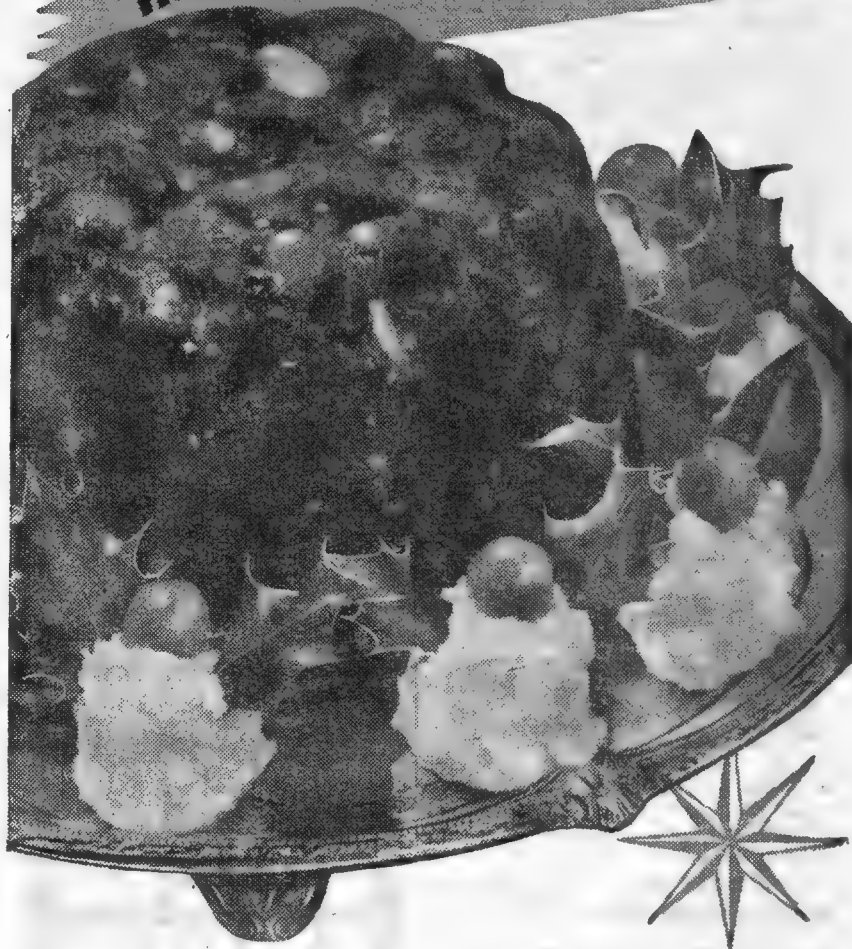
TO keep Christmas trees fragrant and green during the holidays, set the trees in a wide-mouthed bottle or crock which holds about a gallon of water. Mix 5 grams of citric acid and 6 grams of malic acid in 3 quarts of water. When the tree is set up in the crock and held erect with small wires or other suitable supports, add 15 grams of

calcium carbonate to the acid solution and pour the whole solution into the crock. As the tree uses up the solution, add water. These chemicals are inexpensive and the formula should serve the purpose for most species of Christmas trees except Hemlock, which is one tree that does not respond to this treatment.

Sing Heigh-ho!

for this sumptuous

MAGIC FRUIT PUDDING



HERE'S the fruitiest fruit pudding . . . and the most delectable texture and taste that ever tempted a sweet tooth! It's Magic's modern version of a marvellous old recipe—and the result is right out of Dickens!

Hurry and get those fine, fresh ingredients from your grocer's new stocks! You know how good your pudding's going to be, for you choose everything yourself! And Magic rewards you with that wonderful light texture . . . brings out the spicy-rich goodness of each ingredient. At less than 1¢ per average baking, dependable Magic protects results whenever you bake!



MAGIC FRUIT PUDDING

- 1½ c. seedless raisins
- 1 c. currants
- 1 c. cut-up seeded raisins
- ¾ c. cut-up mixed candied peels and citron
- ½ c. almonds, blanched and halved
- 1½ c. once-sifted pastry flour or 1½ c. once-sifted all-purpose flour
- 3 tsps. Magic Baking Powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp. ground ginger
- ½ tsp. grated nutmeg
- ¼ tsp. ground cloves
- 1 c. chopped suet
- 1 c. coarse soft bread crumbs
- 1¼ c. lightly-packed brown sugar

- 1½ c. shredded raw apple
- 1 c. shredded raw carrot
- 3 eggs, well beaten; ½ c. cold coffee

Wash and dry seedless raisins and currants; add seeded raisins, peels, citron and almonds. Mix and sift 3 times, flour, Magic Baking Powder, salt and spices; add fruits and nuts, a few at a time; mix well; mix in suet, bread crumbs, sugar, apple and carrot. Combine eggs and coffee; add to pudding and mix thoroughly. Three-quarters fill greased large pudding mould with batter; cover with wet cookery parchment or with greased heavy paper; tie down. Steam, closely covered for 4 hours. Uncover pudding until cold, then wrap closely and store 2 or 3 weeks. To re-heat pudding, steam 1½ hours. Serve with hard sauce or any other suitable sauce. Yield: 10 servings.

THERE is such an impressive stack of letters before me this month that I can plainly see I'll have to make my answers as brief and to-the-point as possible. So if I sound rather curt, don't think I'm mad at you . . . I'm just trying to be business-like . . . which goes against my nature.

Q.: Do you know of any way to unravel matted, knitted garments? — (Mrs. A. R., Battleford, Sask.)

A.: The only way I know is to

Let's Ask Aunt Sal . . .

soak said garment in gasoline . . . (take it away outside for pity's sakes). When, or if the wool gets softened up again, then it will unravel. (Does any reader know a better way?)

Q.: What can be done with a thermometer on which the spirit has parted? Shaking it down like one does with a clinical thermometer does not help.

— (P. F., Consort, Alta.)

A.: I consulted a pharmacist about this and he states that most of these are beyond repair, but he advised you to consult your own druggist and he can give you the address of a surgical supply house where you may send it.

Q.: Could you give me a recipe for a yeast bread using molasses and raisins and nearly black in color. — (Miss L. G., Russell, Man.)

A.: **Whole Wheat Bread:** Soak dry yeast in lukewarm water (you may use partly potato water if you wish . . . have 4 cups liquid). 2 tsps. salt, 4 tbsps. sugar (or part or about all of this amount of molasses), 4 tbsps. shortening, 4 cups white flour to 7 cups whole wheat or other dark flour. I have not room to include all directions for mixing . . . if you want this, too, include a stamped envelope and I'll supply.

Q.: Could you give me the address of the firm in British Columbia where they make new mattresses from old rags and mattresses? — (Mrs. L. W., Nelson, B.C.)

A.: I couldn't find any such address, can any reader help?

Q.: Have you some recipes for using pumpkin? (Repeat).

A.: **Pumpkin Mincemeat.** — (Sent in by Mrs. J. E. A., Cheadle, Alta.) 4 lbs. pumpkin, 2 lbs. raisins, 2 lbs. sugar, 2 lbs. apples, 1 lb. currants, 6 ozs. mixed peel rind, and juice of 2 lemons, spice to taste. Put all ingredients except spices and sugar through food grinder. Add sugar and spices and boil for one hour. Put in jars and seal.

Q.: Is there any way to stiffen a felt hat after it has been washed and re-shaped? — (Mrs. J. E. A.)

A.: Make a starch of 6 tbsps. borax to 5 qts. water. You could dip the brim in this but

for the crown it would be better to apply with a brush. For if you get the hat very damp again you'd have to repeat the blocking process.

Q.: I would like some ideas in decorating my new living room. (At least six such questions have come in lately.)

A.: One cannot cover such a question in an average-sized letter. I would advise you to study pictures and articles in magazines and here is a Canadian address where you can buy a cheap book to help you. "How to Decorate Your Living Room" (26 cents), published by: Home Workshop Patterns, 4433 West 5th Avenue, Vancouver. When writing them ask for their list of other useful publications.

Q.: Could you tell me where I could get quilt pattern called "Double Wedding Ring" also "Dresden Plate"? — Mrs. Louis Krall, Box 295, Natal, B.C.

A.: If anyone can supply above will you please drop a card to Mrs. Krall (above), not to me, please!

Q.: How do you clean a suede hat? — (Mrs. E. H., Edmonton.)

A.: An art eraser, fine sandpaper, piece of suede dipped in cleaning fluid or a specially treated sponge that can be bought at your shoe store . . . all are good.

Q.: Where can I buy a copy of the book, "The Canadian Royal Tour?" I want to send copies of it back to England. — (Mrs. A. B., Maple Creek, Sask.)

A.: This book is printed by Ryerson Press, Toronto. It sells at \$4.00. I bought mine at Commercial Printers, Lethbridge. Most book stores have it in stock. If not near a bookstore, write to Ryerson Press.

NOTE:—All readers are invited to send in their home-making problems to Aunt Sal in care of *Farm and Ranch Review*, Calgary. If you wish a private reply enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Aunt Sal suggests . . .

The sour-cream-and-milk recipes have continued to stream in all last month, so if you have a yen to send along some of yours . . . please don't. I have enough. I have picked out a few that I think are especially suitable for yuletide entertaining.

Double-Decker Cookies

(Sent in by Mrs. M. S., Faith Alta.)

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup shortening, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar (I used white), 1 egg, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup molasses, 4 cups flour, 1 tsp. salt, 2 tsps. ginger, 1 tsp. soda, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sour milk.

Mix as for any cookie dough. Roll out very thin and cut half of them in circles and other half with doughnut cutter. Place together with icing or jam.

Fruit Cookies

(Sent in by Miss V. H., Glidden, Sask.)

(Very large batch . . . you may want to only use half.) Sift together these: $2\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. all-

spice, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cinnamon, $1\frac{1}{2}$ tsps. soda.

Then add and mix well these: 1 cup chopped walnuts, 1 cup raisins, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup currants, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cocoanut, 3 cups oatmeal.

In a second bowl, combine these: $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups sugar, 3 eggs, 2 cups sour cream, 1 tsp. vanilla.

Combine contents of two bowls. Mix well and drop from spoon onto cookie sheet and bake in oven 350° F. until done.

Sour Cream Tarts

(Sent in by Mrs. T. C., St. Michael, Alta.)

2 egg yolks, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raisins, 1 tsp. cinnamon, 1 cup sour cream, 1 tsp. soda. Mix together and bring to boil. When cool, place in baked tart shells. Place meringue on top and a cherry on top will give the Xmas look.

Honey Cookies

(Sent in by Mrs. W. T., Excel, Alta.)

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey, 1 cup sour cream, 1 tsp. soda, 1 tsp. vanilla or lemon extract, $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt,



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NO SAG
NO COIL FEEL
NO TUFTS**

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Country Diary

WHEN snow comes in December the flakes fall thick and deceptively, soft and rhythmic, unlike the small sudden flurries of earlier winter that whitened the ground and disappeared. I know from long experience how quickly a powerful wind may blow up and develop a blizzard. And then will come a clear night when the air is so crisp and cold it almost crunches as you breathe it, and while flowers are non-existent on the snow-covered prairie, one can look up and see stars shining like pale spring blossoms in the high meadows of the sky.

Some of us have a "feeling" or sentence about the months and the procession of the year. For us the names of the months have a traditional meaning of their own, and the calendar is no mere calculating device, but a reflection of natural order. All phases of growth and work in rotating seasons call to mind poetry that nature lovers have ever written about them, and so made them more lasting and impressionable. The delights of winter are less popular on the whole than those of summer, but to the connoisseur not less lovely. The blue of a noontide December sky can be more pure than that of July, for in mid-summer it is often blurred by the haze of heat. And what has summer to offer that can surpass the splendour of frosty nights when the brilliant, many-coloured Northern Lights [Aurora Borealis] march and dance? Some of us who thrilled

to the June bird-choir of early dawn hear a minor music in the elusive coyote's long-distance howl that strikes the silence of night. And in the deep base of the grey owl's ever questioning "who who who" that echoes in the dim dawn.

December, of course, leads to the highlight of the year, Christmas, a day of days devoted to friendliness and kindness of heart. Previews in everyday life — radio, newspapers, commerce, have robbed it of its original solemn significance. We have all been drenched, in spite of ourselves, in the excitement of benevolent old Santas, gaiety, glitter, anticipation of giving and receiving be-ribboned favors, laughter, music, noise, and dazzling lights everywhere, in stores, streets, every window on country roads aglow. On the first holy Christmas Night bitter cold winds blew over the bleak hillsides of Judea and a single star gleamed in the darkness overhead. But of such a brightness that it has shone and illumined the world, eclipsing all display made by man as no light could ever do.

"The year is dying, let him go." Into what unknown regions will the ambitious researches of man lead us in the coming year? There may be many changes and mighty discoveries. But the precious hope of humanity is not for riches or power, but for the wisdom and understanding of the world's rulers, and for lasting peace. This is the Diary's best wish for all of us this Christmas.

The Dishpan Philosopher

I WONDER now, on looking back, if Christmas has gone off the track? This question's worth a little thought, for Christmas sure has changed a lot in these last fifty years or so. Yes, it was different long ago! I don't remember when it was the reindeer of good Santa Claus were pastured out that so he might use cars and planes to speed his flight. And really it seems queer to me that long ere Christmas we can see a Santa here, a Santa there, and Santas, Santas everywhere, all part and parcel of the craze for counting Christmas shopping days.

I could be wrong but I do feel old Christmases had more appeal. The ancient urge to give and share was served with less of wear and tear, and with more thought, beyond a doubt, of just what Christmas is about.

1½ cups all-purpose flour (or enough to make soft dough). Drop from spoon . . . sprinkle with colored sugar. (Mrs. T. keeps colored sugar on hand in a celery salt container.)

Maybe there are a few who do not know the trick of "souring" cream or milk. Add one tblsp. vinegar or lemon juice to a cup of sweet milk or cream. For some of these recipes I used canned cream and soured it as above. All recipes were successful.

Our Readers Tell Us:

Mrs. L. M. L. from Standard has

had good success in removing white spots from highly polished table by rubbing it with ground walnut meats.

Mrs. H. H. from Ft. Macleod sends in two addresses to suggest good places to send your old Xmas cards: National Cripples' Journal, 90 Bidulph St., Leicester, England, and Mr. H. E. Taylor, Bishop Horden Memorial School, Moose Factory, Ont.

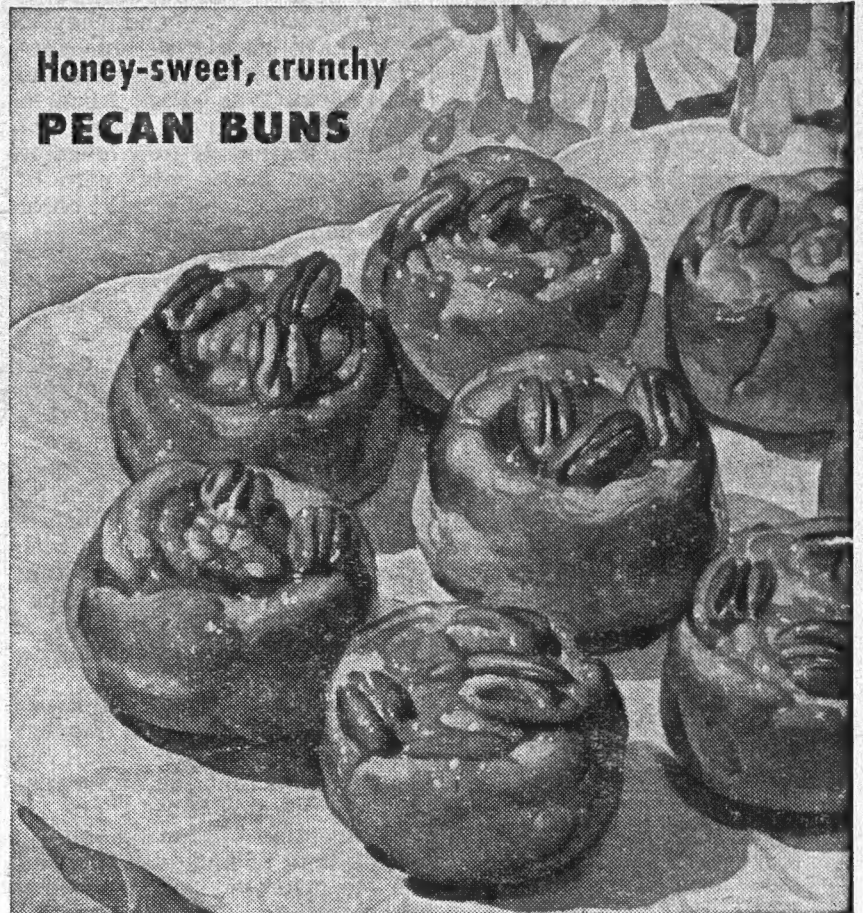
Mrs. Alf Lidbury, Meeting Creek, Alta., has the pansy centre doilies asked for by Mrs. L. A. Nipawin, Sask., but she hasn't the chair set.

Bye bye for now . . . and every good wish for Christmas!

Aunt Sal.

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* * *

HONEY PECAN BUNS New Time-Saving Recipe Makes 24 Buns

Measure into bowl

1/2 cup lukewarm water

1 teaspoon granulated sugar

and stir until sugar is dissolved.

Sprinkle with contents of

1 envelope Fleischmann's

Fast Rising Dry Yeast

Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well.

In the meantime, scald

1/2 cup milk

Remove from heat and stir in

1/4 cup granulated sugar

1/2 teaspoon salt

3 tablespoons shortening

Cool to lukewarm and add to yeast mixture. Stir in

1 egg, well beaten

Stir in

1 cup once-sifted bread flour

and beat until smooth; work in

2 1/2 cups once-sifted bread flour

Turn out on lightly-floured board and

knead dough lightly until smooth and elastic.

Place in greased bowl, brush top with melted butter or shortening.

Cover and set dough in warm place, free from draught and let rise until doubled in bulk. While dough is rising, grease 24 large muffin pans.

Combine

1/3 cup brown sugar (lightly pressed down)

2/3 cup liquid honey

3 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted

Divide this mixture evenly into prepared muffin pans and drop 3 pecan halves into each pan. Punch down dough and divide into 2 equal portions; form into smooth balls. Roll each piece into an oblong 1/8-inch thick and 12 inches long; loosen dough. Brush with melted butter or margarine.

Sprinkle with a mixture of

1/3 cup brown sugar (lightly pressed down)

1/3 cup chopped pecans

Beginning at a 12-inch edge, roll up each piece loosely, like a jelly roll. Cut into 1-inch slices. Place a cut-side up, in prepared muffin pans. Grease tops. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in moderately hot oven, 375°, about 20 minutes. Turn out of pans immediately and serve hot, or reheated.



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Don't let them fool you, Santa Claus has a place!

By LOUISE PRICE BELL

THERE are some people who feel that Santa Claus should never be a part of our children's Yuletide fun . . . and they, I fear, have very little imagination. For Santa Claus, like the Blue Bird, Peter Pan, Alice in Wonderland, and scores of other imaginative and loveable characters are a vital part of childhood . . . and should be of adulthood, too!

Christmas is the most wonderful day, and season, of the year. And in every Christian home, Christmas stands for one major thing — the birth of the Holy Babe so many, many years ago. In these homes, the children know that beautiful story from infancy, listen to its reading again and again and in no way connect this part, which is the real part, of Christmas with Santa Claus. With that spiritual backlog, parents and youngsters alike can have the fun of make-believe when it comes to Santa Claus.

It isn't a question of not being truthful, for no honest Christian parent would tell his or her child that there is a real live man named Santa Claus. It is a question of sharing the exciting land of make-believe just as we do when we read fairy tales to them.

Children who are reared to think of Santa as a amusing part of Christmas are no more puzzled by the array of Santas that they see in stores and on street-corners than are their parents. They understand — because it has been explained to them — that these men dress up like Santa to look "Christmasy", and make the season gay and jolly.

Lovely Stories

Children love the stories about Cinderella, The Little Red Hen, The Gingerbread Man, but they never once think of those beloved characters as real or alive. Then why should it be difficult to inculcate exactly the same attitude toward good old "St. Nick"? It isn't . . . and I speak as a parent who has found by the trial-and-error system, that her own youngsters, as well as others under her supervision, easily put all these characters, as well as the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy in the same delightful category — inhabitants of the wonderful "Land of Make-Believe."

It's fun to talk about Santa with an air of mystery. When the littlest one asks how Santa can ever get down the chimney when he is so fat, the natural and undisputed answer is that he couldn't if he were a real, live man like Daddy . . . and that that's the fun of fairylike people . . . they can do anything!

Santa Claus is made of something that lasts forever—love. Houses may burn, wear out, or crumble, trees may live a long time, but eventually die. But love passes on from one to another, through generations. Love is immortal. And some-

times if love is strong enough and worthy of preservation, it takes unto itself a sort of human form and that is immortal, too. That is the way we in our family have always liked to think of Santa Claus. He is love, and thoughtfulness, and unselfishness, and sharing with

others, and these things have merged and gradually taken form that is far more lasting than a human form could be. Love was in this world long before we were and will be here long after we leave . . . it will continue to gladden the hearts of all who share it.



Christmas Gift Suggestions

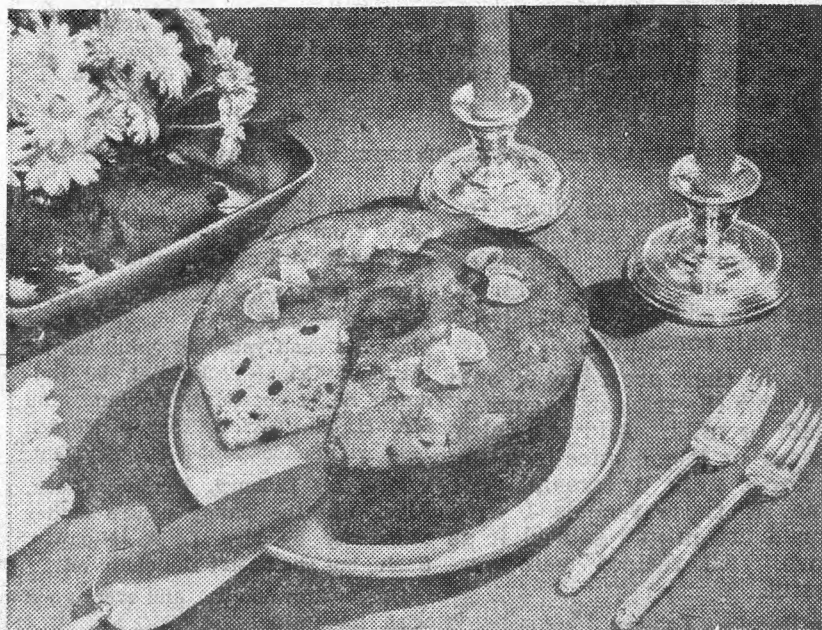
By LOUISE PRICE BELL

FOOD made in your own kitchen, wrapped attractively, and given to the friends who perhaps aren't as good cooks as you, or don't have the time to make goodies, is a wonderful Christmas gift. As two suggestions here is a recipe for a fruit cake and one for Orange Walnuts. Both are delicious and the latter very simple and easy to make, in fact the young

folks in your family might enjoy fixing these.

Holiday Fruit Cake

- 1 cup sifted sugar
- 1 cup butter, or substitute
- 4 eggs
- 7 tblsps. orange juice
- 1 tblsp. lemon juice
- 2½ cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ¼ tsp. soda
- 1 cup chopped nut-meats



Fruit cake you can give or eat.

½ cup shredded cocoanut
1 cup raisins
¼ tsp. salt

Blend sugar and shortening until creamy, add egg-yolks, one at a time, also orange juice a tablespoonful at a time. Resift flour with baking powder and soda, stir slowly into batter, add nuts, cocoanut and raisins. Add salt to egg-whites and stir until

stiff, but not dry. Fold eggs into batter, pour in 9-inch tube pan and bake one hour at 350° F.

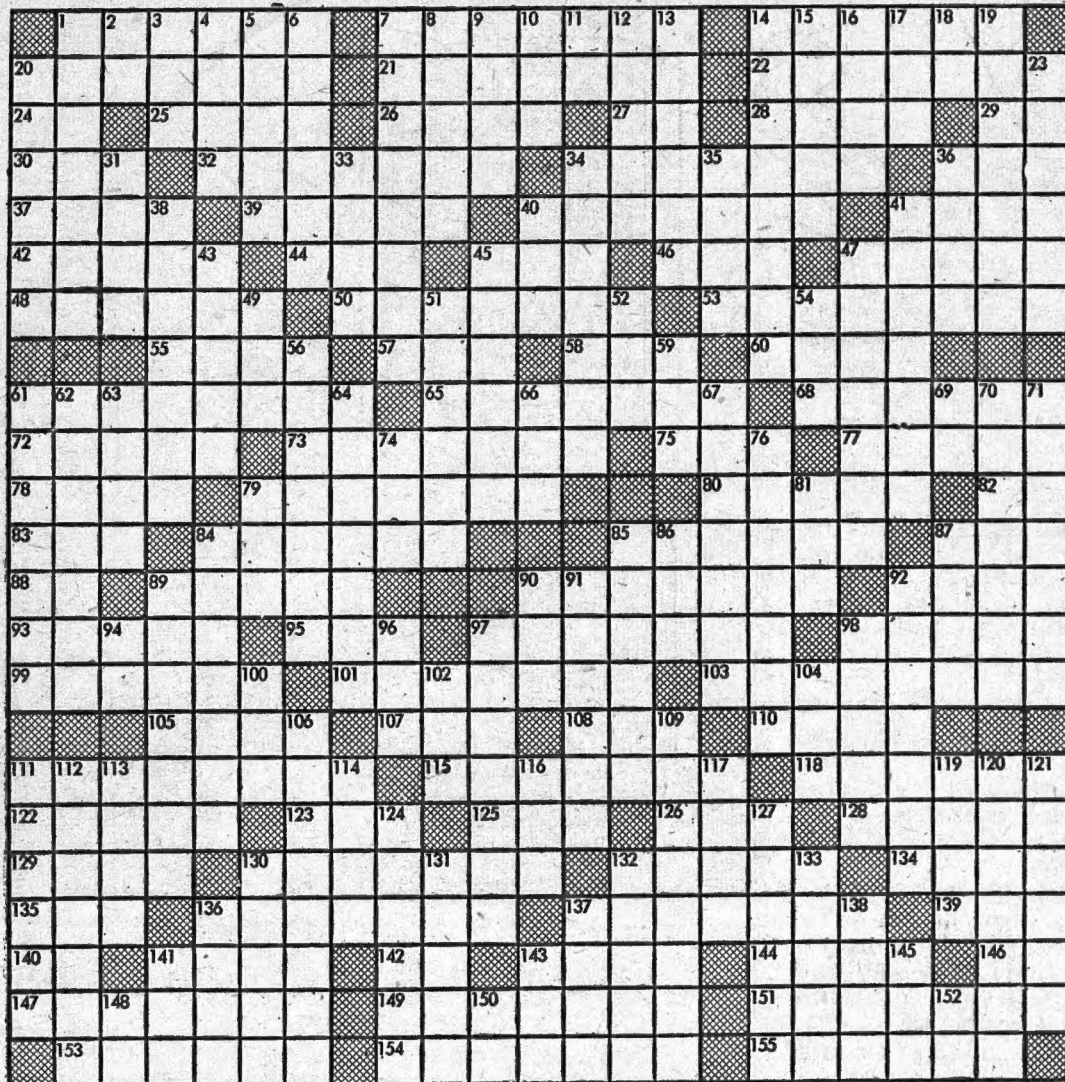
Orange Walnuts

6 ounces of orange juice
2½ cups shelled walnuts
1½ cups sugar

Blend together fresh orange juice, with sugar and stir over heat until sugar is dissolved. Heat to 240° F. without stir-

ring, or until a small amount dropped in water forms a soft ball. Remove from heat and add walnuts, stir until mixture begins to thicken, then drop with teaspoon onto sheets of waxed paper. Cool before tucking into dried fruits of your choice. Walnuts are good as they are, without further addition of the fruits, however.

OUR CROSSWORD PUZZLE



VERTICAL

- 1 Fresh-water fish of Brazil (pl.)
7 Mystic arts
14 Talks idly
20 Gather together
21 River of S. America
22 American journalist
24 Preposition
25 Danish weight (pl.)
26 Obey
27 Symbol for radon
28 River island (pl.)
29 101 (Rom. num.)
30 Edge
32 Snared
34 Fastens securely again
36 Not speaking
37 Fresh-water annelid
39 Coffin and stand (pl.)
40 Expresses indignant displeasure at
41 A nimbus
42 Made mistake
44 Prefix: three
45 Occupied a seat
46 Golf mound
47 Sumatran squirrel
48 Sun-dried brick (pl.)
50 Neck of land connecting two larger bodies
53 Value highly
55 Turkish regiment
57 Period of time
58 To pilfer
60 Before-mentioned
61 Certainly
65 Streets
68 Very long poles
72 Agalloca wood
73 Carries
75 Sprite
77 Pertaining to the cult of an Egyptian goddess
78 Fail to hit
79 Native of certain country
80 Letter of alphabet
82 Word of negation
83 I have (contr.)
84 Metal tool with cutting edge
85 Documents
87 Feline
88 Symbol for nickel
89 To recite musically
90 To tread underfoot
92 Salary
93 Boredom
95 A jellylike material
97 Cooked in certain manner
98 Command
99 Percolated
101 Loses one's mind
103 Gives up hope
105 Member of a Siouan tribe grouped with the Biloxi (pl.)
107 Force
108 Spread for drying
110 College official
111 Frying pans
115 Walks along with long measured steps
118 A star
122 Island in the Philippines
123 Corded cloth
125 Harvest goddess
126 Revolution (abbr.)
128 Fruit of blackthorn (pl.)
129 Emmets
130 Device that closes securely (pl.)
132 A family in early Irish law
134 Heraldry: grafted
135 Capuchin monkey
136 A light cotton fabric
137 Walk with short tottering steps
139 Fortunate (India)
140 Mark (abbr.)
141 First man
142 Plural ending
143 English composer
144 Moleat
146 Symbol for gold
147 To rescue from wreck-age
149 More impaired by inaction
151 Redeem
153 Appeared
154 Mathematical instrument (pl.)
155 Football team

HORIZONTAL

- 1 Kind of dagger
2 Prefix: not
3 Beverage
4 Choicest
5 Sour to the taste
6 Narrow
7 To include
8 Sign of the Zodiac
9 To tie with a cord
10 A connective
11 Behold
12 Land measure (pl.)
13 Poem
14 One who interweaves (pl.)
15 Disturbs
16 Skills
17 It is (contr.)
18 Printer's measure
19 Temporal
20 Part of eye
23 Full of chinks
31 Genus of New Zealand robins
33 Persian elf
34 Comes back
35 The dill
36 Progenitor of humans (India myth)
38 Lowers
40 Male sheep
41 A kind of drug
43 Island in Cyclades group
45 Cuts off closely
47 Adroit devices for accomplishing an end
49 Annamese measure
51 To journey
52 Old French coin
54 Eusebius (abbr.)
56 Having irritating feeling that induces scratching
59 Stinging insect
61 A period of want (pl.)
62 A semiprecious stone
63 Flower
64 Lifted
66 Organ of sight
67 Struck with open hand
69 Chinese measure
70 Bird
71 Kind of duck (pl.)
74 Compass point
76 Placed team in contention
79 Tea
81 Cornish prefix: signifying town
84 Principally
85 Went by
86 Danish territorial division
87 Mohammedan magistrate
89 Rounded rock (pl.)
90 Measure of weight
91 A weight unit of India (pl.)
92 To argue
94 A direction
96 Bulgarian coin
97 Replace
98 Gem (pl.)
100 Female deer
102 Prefix: wrong
104 Body of water
106 Poured forth in volume
109 Mockers
111 Muscle contractions
112 South Sea Islanders
113 Defied sun of Incas
114 Line of juncture
116 Revolutions per second
117 Dispatch
119 Vast age (pl.)
120 Leave a railroad train
121 A shrine of Isis
124 Kind of pincers
127 Fabric resembling velvet
130 Raised platform
131 To follow
132 Tool for making a conical recess
133 Even
136 City of Holland
137 Group of three
138 Gaming cubes
141 Farewell
143 Siamese coin
145 555 (Rom. num.)
148 French article
150 State (abbr.)
152 Denoting unit ship in Lloyd's register

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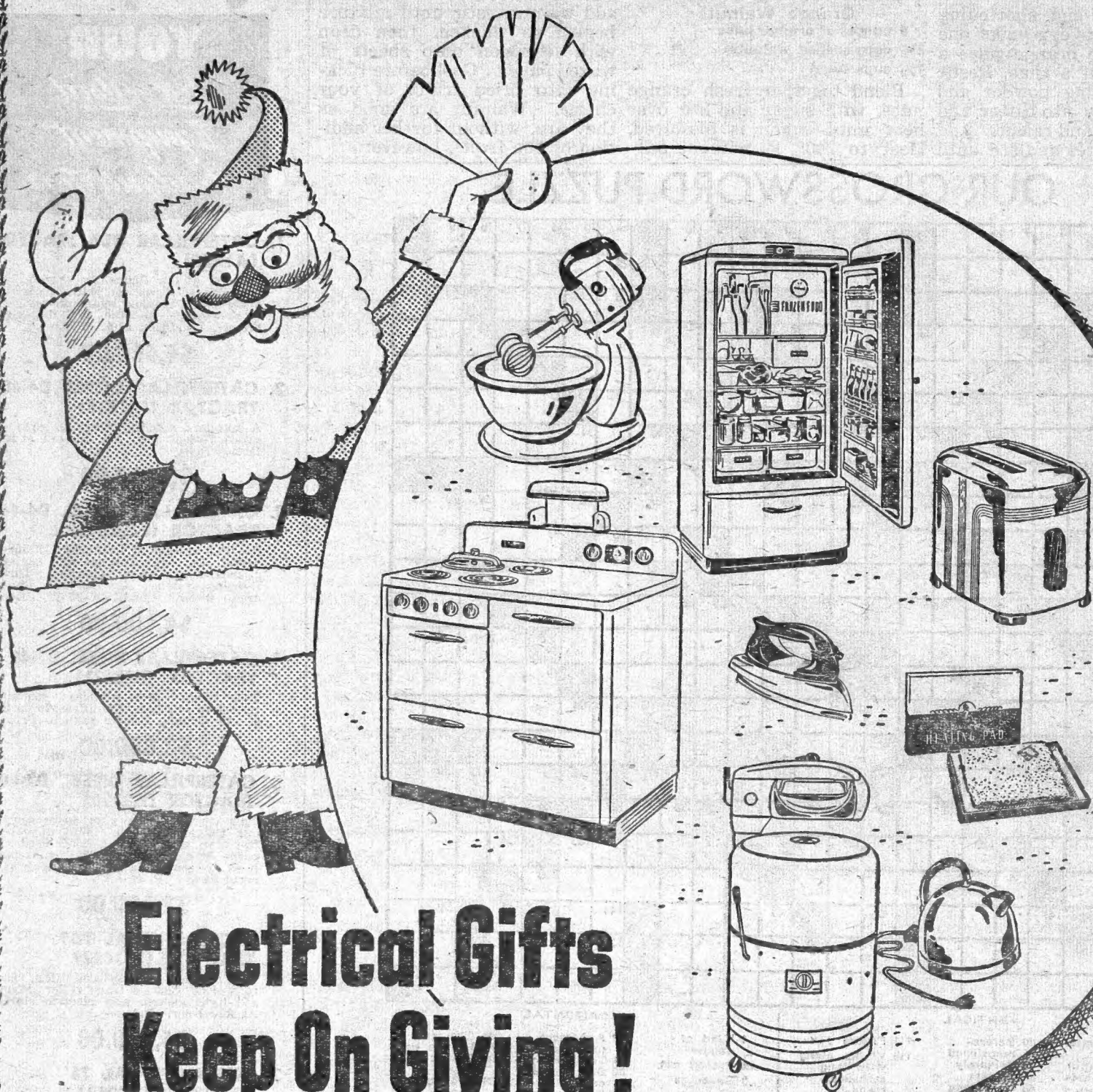
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